NAME

cp – copy files

SYNOPSIS

/usr/bin/cp [–fip] *source_file target_file*
/usr/bin/cp [–fip] *source_file . . . target*
/usr/bin/cp –r | –R [–fip] *source_dir . . . target*

/usr/xpg4/bin/cp [–fip] *source_file target_file*
/usr/xpg4/bin/cp [–fip] *source_file . . . target*
/usr/xpg4/bin/cp –r | –R [–fip] *source_dir . . . target*

AVAILABILITY

/usr/bin/cp SUNWcsu

/usr/xpg4/bin/cp SUNWxcu4

DESCRIPTION

In the first synopsis form, neither *source_file* nor *target_file* are directory files, nor can they have the same name. The **cp** utility will copy the contents of *source_file* to the destination path named by *target_file*. If *target_file* exists, **cp** will overwrite its contents, but the mode (and ACL if applicable), owner, and group associated with it are not changed. The last modification time of *target_file* and the last access time of *source_file* are set to the time the copy was made. If *target_file* does not exist, **cp** creates a new file named *target_file* that has the same mode as *source_file* except that the sticky bit is not set unless the user is super-user; the owner and group of *target_file* are those of the owner. If *target_file* is a link to another file with links, the other links remain and *target_file* becomes a new file.

In the second synopsis form, one or more *source_file*s are copied to the directory specified by *target*. For each *source_file* specified, a new file with the same mode (and ACL if applicable), is created in *target*; the owner and group are those of the user making the copy. It is an error if any *source_file* is a file of type directory, if *target* either does not exist or is not a directory.

In the third synopsis form, one or more directories specified by *source_dir* are copied to the directory specified by *target*. Either **–r** or **–R** must be specified. For each *source_dir*, **cp** will copy all files and subdirectories.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

–f Unlink. If a file descriptor for a destination file cannot be obtained, attempt to unlink the destination file and proceed.

–i Interactive. **cp** will prompt for confirmation whenever the copy would overwrite an existing *target*. A **y** answer means that the copy should proceed. Any other answer prevents **cp** from overwriting *target*.

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–p Preserve. **cp** duplicates not only the contents of *source_file*, but also preserves the owner and group id, permissions modes, modification and access time, and ACLs if applicable. Note that the command may fail if ACLs are copied to a file system that does not support ACLs. The command will not fail if unable to preserve modification and access time or permission modes. If unable to preserve owner and group id, **cp** will not fail, and it will clear **S_ISUID** and **S_ISGID** bits in the target. **cp** will print a diagnostic message to **stderr** and return a non-zero exit status if unable to clear these bits.

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−p Preserve. **cp** duplicates not only the contents of *source_file*, but also preserves the owner and group id, permission modes, modification and access time, and ACLs if applicable. Note that the command may fail if ACLs are copied to a file system that does not support ACLs. If unable to duplicate the modification and access time or the permission modes, **cp** will print a diagnostic message to **stderr** and return a non-zero exit status. If unable to preserve owner and group id, **cp** will not fail, and it will clear **S_ISUID** and **S_ISGID** bits in the target. **cp** will print a diagnostic message to **stderr** and return a non-zero exit status if unable to clear these bits.

−r Recursive. **cp** will copy the directory and all its files, including any subdirectories and their files to *target*.

−R Same as **−r**, except pipes are replicated, not read from.

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

source_file A path name of a regular file to be copied.

source_dir A path name of a directory to be copied.

target_file A pathname of an existing or non-existing file, used for the output when a single file is copied.

target A pathname of a directory to contain the copied files.

EXAMPLES

1. To copy a file:

```
example% cp goodies goodies.old
example% ls goodies*
goodies goodies.old
```

2. To copy a list of files to a destination directory:

```
example% cp ~/src/*  /tmp
```

3. To copy a directory, first to a new, and then to an existing destination directory:

```
example% ls ~/bkup
/usr/example/fred/bkup not found
example% cp −r ~/src ~/bkup
example% ls −R ~/bkup
x.c y.c z.sh
example% cp −r ~/src ~/bkup
example% ls −R ~/bkup
src x.c y.c z.sh

src:
x.c y.c z.sh
```

ENVIRONMENT

See **environ**(5) for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **cp**: **LC_COLLATE**, **LC_CTYPE**, **LC_MESSAGES**, and **NLSPATH**.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 All files were copied successfully.

>0 An error occurred.

SEE ALSO

chmod(1), **setfacl**(1), **environ**(5)

NOTES

The permission modes of the source file are preserved in the copy.

A −− permits the user to mark the end of any command line options explicitly, thus allowing **cp** to recognize filename arguments that begin with a −.
If a −− and a − both appear on the same command line, the second will be interpreted as a filename.