NAME

cut – cut out selected fields of each line of a file

SYNOPSIS

cut –**b** *list* [–**n**] [*file* . . .]
cut –**c** *list* [*file* . . .]
cut –**f** *list* [–**d** *delim*] [–**s**] [*file* . . .]

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

Use **cut** to cut out columns from a table or fields from each line of a file; in data base parlance, it implements the projection of a relation. The fields as specified by *list* can be fixed length, that is, character positions as on a punched card (–**c** option) or the length can vary from line to line and be marked with a field delimiter character like TAB (–**f** option). **cut** can be used as a filter.

Either the –**b**, –**c**, or –**f** option must be specified.

Use **grep**(1) to make horizontal ''cuts'' (by context) through a file, or **paste**(1) to put files together column-wise (that is, horizontally). To reorder columns in a table, use **cut** and **paste**.

OPTIONS

list A comma-separated or blank-character-separated list of integer field numbers (in increasing order), with optional – to indicate ranges (for instance, **1,4,7**; **1**–**3,8**; –**5,10** (short for **1**–**5,10**); or **3**– (short for third through last field)).

–**b** *list* The *list* following –**b** specifies byte positions (for instance, –**b1**–**72** –**b1**–**72** would pass the first 72 bytes of each line). When –**b** and –**n** –**n** are used together, *list* is adjusted so that no multi-byte character is split. If –**b** is used, the input line should contain 1023 bytes or less.

–**c** *list* The *list* following –**c** specifies character positions (for instance, –**c1**–**72** would pass the first 72 characters of each line).

–**d** *delim* The character following –**d** is the field delimiter (–**f** option only). Default is *tab*. Space or other characters with special meaning to the shell must be quoted. *delim* can be a multi-byte character.

–**f** *list* The *list* following –**f** is a list of fields assumed to be separated in the file by a delimiter character (see –**d**); for instance, –**f1,7** copies the first and seventh field only. Lines with no field delimiters will be passed through intact (useful for table subheadings), unless –**s** is specified. If –**f** is used, the input line should contain 1023 characters or less.

–**n** Do not split characters. When –**b** *list* and –**n** are used together, *list* is adjusted so that no multi-byte character is split.

–**s** Suppresses lines with no delimiter characters in case of –**f** option. Unless specified, lines with no delimiters will be passed through untouched.

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

file A path name of an input file. If no *file* operands are specified, or if a *file* operand is −, the standard input will be used.

EXAMPLES

A mapping of user IDs to names follows:

example% cut −d: −f1,5 /etc/passwd

To set **name** to current login name:

example$ name=`who am i | cut −f1 −d' '`

ENVIRONMENT

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

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 All input files were output successfully.

>0 An error occurred.

SEE ALSO

grep(1), **paste**(1), **environ**(5)

DIAGNOSTICS

cut: −n may only be used with −b

cut: −d may only be used with −f

cut: −s may only be used with −f

cut: cannot open <*file*>
Either *file* cannot be read or does not exist. If multiple files are present, processing continues.

cut: no delimiter specified
Missing *delim* on −**d** option.

cut: invalid delimiter

cut: no *list* specified
Missing *list* on −**b**, −**c**, or −**f**, option.

cut: invalid range specifier

cut: too many ranges specified

cut: range must be increasing

cut: invalid character in range

cut: internal error processing input

cut: invalid multibyte character

cut: unable to allocate enough memory