NAME

mv – move files

SYNOPSIS

/usr/bin/mv [–fi] *source target_file*
/usr/bin/mv [–fi] *source. . . target_dir*

/usr/xpg4/bin/mv [–fi] *source target_file*
/usr/xpg4/bin/mv [–fi] *source. . . target_dir*

AVAILABILITY

/usr/bin/mv SUNWcsu

/usr/xpg4/bin/mv SUNWxcu4

DESCRIPTION

The two sets of synopses reflect the difference between **/usr/bin/mv** and **/usr/xpg4/bin/mv** when both the –**f** and the –**i** options are specified (see **OPTIONS** below). Each set of synopses contains two forms.

In the first synopsis form, the **mv** utility moves the file named by the *source* operand to the destination specified by the *target_file*. *source* and *target_file* may not have the same name. If *target_file* does not exist, **mv** creates a file named *target_file*. If *target_file* exists, its contents are overwritten. This first synopsis form is assumed when the final operand does not name an existing directory.

In the second synopsis form, **mv** moves each file named by a *source* operand to a destination file in the existing directory named by the *target_dir* operand. The destination path for each *source* is the concatenation of the target directory, a single slash character (**/**), and the last path name component of the *source*. This second form is assumed when the final operand names an existing directory.

If **mv** determines that the mode of *target_file* forbids writing, it will print the mode (see **chmod**(2)), ask for a response, and read the standard input for one line. If the line begins with **y**, the **mv** occurs, if permissible; otherwise, the command exits. Note that the mode displayed may not fully represent the access permission if *target* is associated with an ACL. When the parent directory of *source* is writable and has the sticky bit set, one or more of the following conditions must be true:

- the user must own the file
- the user must own the directory
- the file must be writable by the user
- the user must be a privileged user

If *source* is a directory, *target_dir* must be a directory in the same physical file system. *target_dir* and *source* do not have to share the same parent directory.

If *source* is a file and *target_file* is a link to another file with links, the other links remain and *target_file* becomes a new file.

OPTIONS

–f **mv** will move the file(s) without prompting even if it is writing over an existing *target*. Note that this is the default if the standard input is not a terminal.

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

/usr/bin/mv Specifying both the –**f** and the –**i** options is not considered an error. The –**f** option will override the –**i** option.

/usr/xpg4/bin/mv Specifying both the –**f** and the –**i** options is not considered an error. The last option specified will determine the behavior of **mv**.

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

source A path name of a file or directory to be moved.

target_file A new path name for the file or directory being moved.

target_dir A path name of an existing directory into which to move the input files.

ENVIRONMENT

The following environment variables affect the execution of **mv**.

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

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 All input files were moved successfully.

>0 An error occurred.

SEE ALSO

cp(1), **cpio**(1), **ln**(1), **rm**(1), **setfacl**(1), **chmod**(2), **environ**(5)

NOTES

If *source* and *target_dir* are on different file systems, **mv** copies the file and deletes the original; any links to other files are lost.

A '−−' permits the user to mark explicitly the end of any command line options, allowing **mv** to recognize filename arguments that begin with a '−'. As an aid to BSD migration, **mv** will accept '−' as a synonym for '−−'. This migration aid may disappear in a future release. If a '−−' and a '−' both appear on the same command line, the second will be interpreted as a filename.