NAME paste – merge corresponding or subsequent lines of files

SYNOPSIS **paste [–s] [–d** *list* **]** *file . . .*

AVAILABILITY SUNWesu

DESCRIPTION

The **paste** utility will concatenate the corresponding lines of the given input files, and write the resulting lines to standard output.

The default operation of **paste** will concatenate the corresponding lines of the input files. The NEWLINE character of every line except the line from the last input file will be replaced with a TAB character.

If an EOF (end-of-file) condition is detected on one or more input files, but not all input files, **paste** will behave as though empty lines were read from the files on which EOF was detected, unless the **–s** option is specified.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

–d *list* Unless a backslash character (\ ) appears in *list*, each character in *list* is an element specifying a delimiter character. If a backslash character appears in *list*, the backslash character and one or more characters following it are an element specifying a delimiter character as described below. These elements specify one or more delimiters to use, instead of the default TAB character, to replace the NEWLINE character of the input lines. The elements in *list* are used circularly; that is, when the list is exhausted the first element from the list is reused.

When the **–s** option is specified:

- The last newline character in a file will not be modified.
- The delimiter will be reset to the first element of list after each *file* operand is processed.

When the option is not specified:

- The NEWLINE characters in the file specified by the last *file* will not be modified.
- The delimiter will be reset to the first element of list each time a line is processed from each file.

If a backslash character appears in *list*, it and the character following it will be used to represent the following delimiter characters:

\n Newline character.
\t Tab character.
**** Backslash character.
\0 Empty string (not a null character). If **\0** is immediately followed by the character **x**, the character **X**, or any character defined by the **LC_CTYPE digit** keyword, the results are unspecified.

If any other characters follow the backslash, the results are unspecified.

−s Concatenate all of the lines of each separate input file in command line order. The NEWLINE character of every line except the last line in each input file will be replaced with the TAB character, unless otherwise specified by the **−d** option.

OPERANDS

The following operand is supported:

file A path name of an input file. If − is specified for one or more of the *file*s, the standard input will be used; the standard input will be read one line at a time, circularly, for each instance of −. Implementations support pasting of at least 12 *file* operands.

EXAMPLES

1. List a directory in one column.

   ls | paste −d" " −

2. List a directory in four columns.

   ls | paste − − − −

3. Combine pairs of lines from a file into single lines.

   paste −s −d"\ t\ n" file

ENVIRONMENT

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

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 Successful completion.

>0 An error occurred.

SEE ALSO

cut(1), **grep**(1), **pr**(1), **environ**(5)

DIAGNOSTICS

"line too long" Output lines are restricted to 511 characters.

"too many files" Except for **−s** option, no more than 12 input files may be specified.

"no delimiters" The **−d** option was specified with an empty list.

"cannot open *file*" The specified file cannot be opened.