NAME

mt – magnetic tape control

SYNOPSIS

mt [**–f** *tapename*] *command...* [*count*]

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

mt sends commands to a magnetic tape drive. If *tapename* is not specified, the environment variable **TAPE** is used. If **TAPE** does not exist, **mt** uses the device **/dev/rmt/0**. *tapename* refers to a raw tape device. By default, **mt** performs the requested operation once; multiple operations may be performed by specifying *count*.

The available *command*s are listed below. Only as many characters as are required to uniquely identify a *command* need be specified.

mt returns a **0** exit status when the operation(s) were successful, **1** if the command was unrecognized or if **mt** was unable to open the specified tape drive, and **2** if an operation failed.

mt Commands

eof, **weof** Write *count* EOF marks at the current position on the tape.

fsf Forward space over *count* EOF marks. The tape is positioned on the first block of the file.

fsr Forward space *count* records.

bsf Back space over *count* EOF marks. The tape is positioned on the beginning-of-tape side of the EOF mark.

bsr Back space *count* records.

nbsf Back space *count* files. The tape is positioned on the first block of the file. This is equivalent to *count+1* **bsf**'s followed by one **fsf**.

asf Absolute space to *count* file number. This is equivalent to a **rewind** followed by a **fsf** *count*.

For the following commands, *count* is ignored:

eom Space to the end of recorded media on the tape. This is useful for appending files onto previously written tapes.

rewind Rewind the tape.

offline, **rewoffl**
Rewind the tape and, if appropriate, take the drive unit off-line by unloading the tape. It cycles through all four tapes.

status Print status information about the tape unit.

retension Rewind the cartridge tape completely, then wind it forward to the end of the reel and back to beginning-of-tape to smooth out tape tension.

erase Erase the entire tape.

FILES

/dev/rmt/∗	magnetic tape interface
/dev/rmt/∗b	
/dev/rmt/∗bn	
/dev/rmt/∗c	
/dev/rmt/∗cb	
/dev/rmt/∗cbn	
/dev/rmt/∗cn	
/dev/rmt/∗h	
/dev/rmt/∗hb	
/dev/rmt/∗hbn	
/dev/rmt/∗hn	
/dev/rmt/∗l	
/dev/rmt/∗lb	
/dev/rmt/∗lbn	
/dev/rmt/∗ln	
/dev/rmt/∗m	
/dev/rmt/∗mb	
/dev/rmt/∗mbn	
/dev/rmt/∗mn	
/dev/rmt/∗n	
/dev/rmt/∗u	
/dev/rmt/∗ub	
/dev/rmt/∗ubn	
/dev/rmt/∗un	

SEE ALSO

tar(1), **tcopy**(1), **ar**(4), **environ**(4), **mtio**(7I), **st**(7D)

BUGS

Not all devices support all options. Some options are hardware-dependent. Refer to the corresponding device manual page.

mt is architecture sensitive. Heterogeneous operation (that is, Sun3 to Sun4 or visa versa) is not supported.