NAME

tail – deliver the last part of a file

SYNOPSIS

/usr/bin/tail [± *number* [**lbcr**]] [*file*]
/usr/bin/tail [–**lbcr**] [*file*]
/usr/bin/tail [± *number* [**lbcf**]] [*file*]
/usr/bin/tail [–**lbcf**] [*file*]

/usr/xpg4/bin/tail [–**f** | –**r**] [–**c** *number* | –**n** *number*] [*file*]
/usr/xpg4/bin/tail [± *number* [**l** | **b** | **c**] [**f**]] [*file*]
/usr/xpg4/bin/tail [± *number* [**l**] [**f** | **r**]] [*file*]

AVAILABILITY

/usr/bin/tail SUNWcsu

/usr/xpg4/bin/tail SUNWxcu4

DESCRIPTION

The **tail** command copies the named file to the standard output beginning at a designated place. If no file is named, the standard input is used.

Copying begins at a point in the file indicated by the –**c** *number*, –**n** *number*, or ±*number* options (if **+***number* is specified, begins at distance number from the beginning; if –*number* is specified, from the end of the input; if *number* is **NULL**, the value **10** is assumed). *number* is counted in units of lines or byte according to the –**c** **or** –**n** options, or lines, blocks, or bytes, according to the appended option **l**, **b**, or **c**. When no units are specified, counting is by lines.

The **r** and **f** options are mutually exclusive. If both are specified on the command line, the **f** option will be ignored.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

–**b** Units of blocks.

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–**c** *number* The *number* option-argument must be a decimal integer whose sign affects the location in the file, measured in bytes, to begin the copying:

+ Copying starts relative to the beginning of the file.
– Copying starts relative to the end of the file.
none Copying starts relative to the end of the file.
The origin for counting is 1; that is, –**c** **+1** represents the first byte of the file, –**c** –**1** the last.

–**c** Units of bytes.

–**f** Follow. If the input-file is not a pipe, the program will not terminate after the line of the input-file has been copied, but will enter an endless loop, wherein it sleeps for a second and then attempts to read and copy further records from the input-file. Thus it may be used to monitor the growth of a file that is being written by some other process.

–**l** Units of lines.

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−n *number* Equivalent to **−c** *number*, except the starting location in the file is measured in lines instead of bytes. The origin for counting is **1**; that is, **−n +1** represents the first line of the file, **−n −1** the last.

−r Reverse. Copies lines from the specified starting point in the file in reverse order. The default for **r** is to print the entire file in reverse order.

OPERANDS

The following operand is supported:

file A path name of an input file. If no *file* operands are specified, the standard input will be used.

EXAMPLES

For example, the command:

example% tail −f fred

will print the last ten lines of the file **fred**, followed by any lines that are appended to **fred** between the time **tail** is initiated and killed. As another example, the command:

example% tail −15cf fred

will print the last 15 bytes of the file **fred**, followed by any lines that are appended to **fred** between the time **tail** is initiated and killed.

ENVIRONMENT

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

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 Successful completion.

>0 An error occurred.

SEE ALSO

cat(1), **head**(1), **more**(1), **pg**(1), **dd**(1M), **environ**(5)

NOTES

Piped tails relative to the end of the file are stored in a buffer, and thus are limited in length. Various kinds of anomalous behavior may happen with character special files.