

**NAME**

cmp – compare two files

**SYNOPSIS**

**cmp** [-l] [-s] *file1 file2* [*skip1*] [*skip2*]

**DESCRIPTION**

The **cmp** utility compares two files. **cmp** will write no output if the files are the same. Under default options, if they differ, it writes to standard output the byte and line numbers at which the first difference occurred. Bytes and lines are numbered beginning with 1. If one file is an initial subsequence of the other, that fact is noted. *skip1* and *skip2* are initial byte offsets into *file1* and *file2* respectively, and may be either octal or decimal; a leading 0 denotes octal.

**OPTIONS**

The following options are supported:

**-l** Write the byte number (decimal) and the differing bytes (octal) for each difference.

**-s** Write nothing for differing files; return exit statuses only.

**OPERANDS**

The following operands are supported:

*file1* A path name of the first file to be compared. If *file1* is –, the standard input will be used.

*file2* A path name of the second file to be compared. If *file2* is –, the standard input will be used.

If both *file1* and *file2* refer to standard input or refer to the same **FIFO** special, block special or character special file, an error results.

**USAGE**

See **largefile(5)** for the description of the behavior of **cmp** when encountering files greater than or equal to 2 Gbyte ( $2^{31}$  bytes).

**EXAMPLES****Example 1: Comparing files byte for byte**

The following example:

```
example% cmp file1 file2 0 1024
```

does a byte for byte comparison of *file1* and *file2*. It skips the first 1024 bytes in *file2* before starting the comparison.

**ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES**

See **environ(5)** for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **cmp**: **LANG**, **LC\_ALL**, **LC\_CTYPE**, **LC\_MESSAGES**, and **NLSPATH**.

**EXIT STATUS**

The following error values are returned:

- 0**        The files are identical.
  
- 1**        The files are different; this includes the case where one file is identical to the first part of the other.
  
- >1**      An error occurred.

**ATTRIBUTES**

See **attributes(5)** for descriptions of the following attributes:

tab()	allbox;	cw(2.750000i)	cw(2.750000i)	lw(2.750000i)	lw(2.750000i).	ATTRIBUTE		
TYPE	ATTRIBUTE	VALUE	Availability	SUNWcsu	CSIenabled	Interface	Stability	Standard

**SEE ALSO**

**comm(1)**, **diff(1)**, **attributes(5)**, **environ(5)**, **largefile(5)**, **standards(5)**