

NAME

comm – select or reject lines common to two files

SYNOPSIS

comm [-123] *file1 file2*

DESCRIPTION

The **comm** utility reads *file1* and *file2*, which must be ordered in the current collating sequence, and produces three text columns as output: lines only in *file1*; lines only in *file2*; and lines in both files.

If the input files were ordered according to the collating sequence of the current locale, the lines written will be in the collating sequence of the original lines. If not, the results are unspecified.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

- 1 Suppresses the output column of lines unique to *file1*.
- 2 Suppresses the output column of lines unique to *file2*.
- 3 Suppresses the output column of lines duplicated in *file1* and *file2*.

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

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

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

USAGE

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

EXAMPLES**Example 1: Printing a list of utilities specified by files**

If *file1*, *file2*, and *file3* each contain a sorted list of utilities, the command

```
example% comm -23 file1 file2 | comm -23 - file3
```

prints a list of utilities in *file1* not specified by either of the other files. The entry:

```
example% comm -12 file1 file2 | comm -12 - file3
```

prints a list of utilities specified by all three files. And the entry:

```
example% comm -12 file2 file3 | comm -23 -file1
```

prints a list of utilities specified by both *file2* and *file3*, but not specified in *file1*.

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

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

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 All input files were successfully output as specified.

>0 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
TYPEATTRIBUTE VALUE AvailabilitySUNWesu CSIenabled Interface StabilityStandard

SEE ALSO

cmp(1), **diff(1)**, **sort(1)**, **uniq(1)**, **attributes(5)**, **environ(5)**, **largefile(5)**, **standards(5)**