

NAME

cut – cut out selected fields of each line of a file

SYNOPSIS

cut -b *list* [-**n**] [*file...*]

cut -c *list* [*file...*]

cut -f *list* [-**d** *delim*] [-**s**] [*file...*]

DESCRIPTION

Use the **cut** utility to cut out columns from a table or fields from each line of a file; in data base parlance, it implements the projection of a relation. The fields as specified by *list* can be fixed length, that is, character positions as on a punched card (**-c** option) or the length can vary from line to line and be marked with a field delimiter character like <TAB> (**-f** option). **cut** can be used as a filter.

Either the **-b**, **-c**, or **-f** option must be specified.

Use **grep(1)** to make horizontal “cuts” (by context) through a file, or **paste(1)** to put files together column-wise (that is, horizontally). To reorder columns in a table, use **cut** and **paste**.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>list</i> | A comma-separated or blank-character-separated list of integer field numbers (in increasing order), with optional – to indicate ranges (for instance, 1,4,7 ; 1–3,8 ; –5,10 (short for 1–5,10); or 3– (short for third through last field)). |
| -b <i>list</i> | The <i>list</i> following -b specifies byte positions (for instance, -b1-72 would pass the first 72 bytes of each line). When -b and -n are used together, <i>list</i> is adjusted so that no multi-byte character is split. |
| -c <i>list</i> | The <i>list</i> following -c specifies character positions (for instance, -c1-72 would pass the first 72 characters of each line). |
| -d <i>delim</i> | The character following -d is the field delimiter (-f option only). Default is <i>tab</i> . Space or other characters with special meaning to the shell must be quoted. <i>delim</i> can be a multi-byte character. |
| -f <i>list</i> | The <i>list</i> following -f is a list of fields assumed to be separated in the file by a delimiter character (see -d); for instance, -f1,7 copies the first and seventh field only. Lines with no field delimiters will be passed through intact (useful for table subheadings), unless -s is specified. |
| -n | Do not split characters. When -b <i>list</i> and -n are used together, <i>list</i> is adjusted so that no multi-byte character is split. |

- s** Suppresses lines with no delimiter characters in case of **-f** option. Unless specified, lines with no delimiters will be passed through untouched.

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

- file* A path name of an input file. If no *file* operands are specified, or if a *file* operand is **-**, the standard input will be used.

USAGE

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

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Mapping user IDs

A mapping of user **IDs** to names follows:

```
example% cut -d: -f1,5 /etc/passwd
```

Example 2: Setting current login name

To set **name** to current login name:

```
example$ name='who am i | cut -f1 -d' '
```

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

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

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 All input files were output successfully.

>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	Availability	SUNWcsu	CSIEnabled	Interface	StabilityStandard

SEE ALSO

grep(1), **paste(1)**, **attributes(5)**, **environ(5)**, **largefile(5)**, **standards(5)**

DIAGNOSTICS

cut: -n may only be used with **-b**

cut: -d may only be used with **-f**

cut: -s may only be used with **-f**

cut: cannot open *<file>*

Either *file* cannot be read or does not exist. If multiple files are present, processing continues.

cut: no delimiter specified

Missing *delim* on **-d** option.

cut: invalid delimiter

cut: no list specified

Missing *list* on **-b**, **-c**, or **-f** option.

cut: invalid range specifier

cut: too many ranges specified

cut: range must be increasing

cut: invalid character in range

cut: internal error processing input

cut: invalid multibyte character

cut: unable to allocate enough memory