

NAME

head – display first few lines of files

SYNOPSIS

head [-**number** | -**n number**] [*filename*...]

DESCRIPTION

The **head** utility copies the first *number* of lines of each *filename* to the standard output. If no *filename* is given, **head** copies lines from the standard input. The default value of *number* is **10** lines.

When more than one file is specified, the start of each file will look like:

```
==> filename <==
```

Thus, a common way to display a set of short files, identifying each one, is:

```
example% head -9999 filename1 filename2 ...
```

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

-n number The first *number* lines of each input file will be copied to standard output. The *number* option-argument must be a positive decimal integer.

-number The *number* argument is a positive decimal integer with the same effect as the **-n number** option.

If no options are specified, **head** will act as if **-n 10** had been specified.

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.

USAGE

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

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Writing the first ten lines of all files

To write the first ten lines of all files (except those with a leading period) in the directory:

```
example% head *
```

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

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

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 Successful completion.

>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

cat(1), **more(1)**, **pg(1)**, **tail(1)**, **attributes(5)**, **environ(5)**, **largefile(5)**, **standards(5)**