

NAME

paste – merge corresponding or subsequent lines of files

SYNOPSIS

paste [-s] [-d *list*] *file*...

DESCRIPTION

The **paste** utility will concatenate the corresponding lines of the given input files, and write the resulting lines to standard output.

The default operation of **paste** will concatenate the corresponding lines of the input files. The **NEWLINE** character of every line except the line from the last input file will be replaced with a **TAB** character.

If an **EOF** (end-of-file) condition is detected on one or more input files, but not all input files, **paste** will behave as though empty lines were read from the files on which **EOF** was detected, unless the **-s** option is specified.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

-d list Unless a backslash character (\) appears in *list*, each character in *list* is an element specifying a delimiter character. If a backslash character appears in *list*, the backslash character and one or more characters following it are an element specifying a delimiter character as described below. These elements specify one or more delimiters to use, instead of the default **TAB** character, to replace the **NEWLINE** character of the input lines. The elements in *list* are used circularly. That is, when the list is exhausted, the first element from the list is reused.

When the **-s** option is specified:

- The last newline character in a file will not be modified.
- The delimiter will be reset to the first element of *list* after each *file* operand is processed.

When the option is not specified:

- The **NEWLINE** characters in the file specified by the last *file* will not be modified.
- The delimiter will be reset to the first element of *list* each time a line is processed from each file.

If a backslash character appears in *list*, it and the character following it will be used to represent the following delimiter characters:

\n Newline character.

\t Tab character.

`\\` Backslash character.

`\0` Empty string (not a null character). If `\0` is immediately followed by the character `x`, the character `X`, or any character defined by the `LC_CTYPE digit` keyword, the results are unspecified.

If any other characters follow the backslash, the results are unspecified.

`-s` Concatenate all of the lines of each separate input file in command line order. The **NEW-LINE** character of every line except the last line in each input file will be replaced with the **TAB** character, unless otherwise specified by the `-d` option.

OPERANDS

The following operand is supported:

file A path name of an input file. If `-` is specified for one or more of the *files*, the standard input will be used. The standard input will be read one line at a time, circularly, for each instance of `-`. Implementations support pasting of at least 12 *file* operands.

USAGE

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

EXAMPLES

Example 1: Listing a directory in one column

```
example% ls | paste -d" " -
```

Example 2: Listing a directory in four columns

```
example% ls | paste - - - -
```

Example 3: Combining pairs of lines from a file into single lines

```
example% paste -s -d"\t" n" file
```

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

See **environ(5)** for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **paste**: **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 AvailabilitySUNWesu CSIEnabled Interface StabilityStandard
```

SEE ALSO

cut(1), **grep(1)**, **pr(1)**, **attributes(5)**, **environ(5)**, **largefile(5)**, **standards(5)**

DIAGNOSTICS

"line too long" Output lines are restricted to 511 characters.

"too many files" Except for **-s** option, no more than 12 input files may be specified.

"no delimiters" The **-d** option was specified with an empty list.

"cannot open file" The specified file cannot be opened.