

NAME

tail – deliver the last part of a file

SYNOPSIS

/usr/bin/tail [\pm *number* [lbc_r]] [*file*]

/usr/bin/tail [-lbc_r] [*file*]

/usr/bin/tail [\pm *number* [lbc_f]] [*file*]

/usr/bin/tail [-lbc_f] [*file*]

/usr/xpg4/bin/tail [-f | -r] [-c *number* | -n *number*] [*file*]

/usr/xpg4/bin/tail [\pm *number* [l | b | c] [f]] [*file*]

/usr/xpg4/bin/tail [\pm *number* [l] [f | r]] [*file*]

DESCRIPTION

The **tail** utility copies the named file to the standard output beginning at a designated place. If no file is named, the standard input is used.

Copying begins at a point in the file indicated by the **-cnumber**, **-nnumber**, or **\pm number** options (if **+number** is specified, begins at distance *number* from the beginning; if **-number** is specified, from the end of the input; if *number* is **NULL**, the value **10** is assumed). *number* is counted in units of lines or byte according to the **-c** or **-n** options, or lines, blocks, or bytes, according to the appended option **l**, **b**, or **c**. When no units are specified, counting is by lines.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported for both **/usr/bin/tail** and **/usr/xpg4/bin/tail**. The **-r** and **-f** options are mutually exclusive. If both are specified on the command line, the **-f** option is ignored.

-b Units of blocks.

-c Units of bytes.

-f Follow. If the input-file is not a pipe, the program does not terminate after the line of the input-file has been copied, but enters an endless loop, wherein it sleeps for a second and then attempts to read and copy further records from the input-file. Thus it can be used to monitor the growth of a file that is being written by some other process.

-l Units of lines.

-r Reverse. Copies lines from the specified starting point in the file in reverse order. The default for **r** is to print the entire file in reverse order.

/usr/xpg4/bin/tail

The following options are supported for **/usr/xpg4/bin/tail** only:

- c *number*** The *number* option-argument must be a decimal integer whose sign affects the location in the file, measured in bytes, to begin the copying:
- + Copying starts relative to the beginning of the file.
 - Copying starts relative to the end of the file.
 - none** Copying starts relative to the end of the file.
- The origin for counting is 1; that is, **-c+1** represents the first byte of the file, **-c-1** the last.
- n *number*** Equivalent to **-c*number***, except the starting location in the file is measured in lines instead of bytes. The origin for counting is 1. That is, **-n+1** represents the first line of the file, **-n-1** the last.

OPERANDS

The following operand is supported:

file A path name of an input file. If no *file* operands are specified, the standard input is used.

USAGE

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

EXAMPLES**Example 1: Using the tail Command**

The following command prints the last ten lines of the file **fred**, followed by any lines that are appended to **fred** between the time **tail** is initiated and killed.

```
example% tail -f fred
```

The next command prints the last 15 bytes of the file **fred**, followed by any lines that are appended to **fred** between the time **tail** is initiated and killed:

```
example% tail -15cf fred
```

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

See **environ(5)** for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **tail**: **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:

/usr/bin/tail

tab() allbox; cw(2.750000i)| cw(2.750000i) lw(2.750000i)| lw(2.750000i). ATTRIBUTE
TYPEATTRIBUTE VALUE AvailabilitySUNWcsu CSIEnabled

/usr/xpg4/bin/tail

tab() allbox; cw(2.750000i)| cw(2.750000i) lw(2.750000i)| lw(2.750000i). ATTRIBUTE
TYPEATTRIBUTE VALUE AvailabilitySUNWxcu4 CSIEnabled Interface StabilityStandard

SEE ALSO

cat(1), head(1), more(1), pg(1), dd(1M), attributes(5), environ(5), largefile(5), standards(5)

NOTES

Piped tails relative to the end of the file are stored in a buffer, and thus are limited in length. Various kinds of anomalous behavior can happen with character special files.