CUT(VI)   CUT(VI)

NAME

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

SYNOPSIS

cut -clist [file1 file2 ...]
cut -flist [-d char] [-s] [file1 file2 ...]

DESCRIPTION

Use cut 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, i.e. 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; if no input files are given, the standard input is used.

Arguments

list	a comma-separated list of integers, with optional − to indicate ranges as in the −o option of nroff/troff for page ranges; e.g. 1,4,7 or 1−3,8 or −5,10 (short for 1−5,10) or 3− (short for third through last field).
-c	the list following -c (no space) specifies character positions, e.g. -c1-72 would pass the first 72 characters of each line.
-f	the list following −f is a list of fields assumed to be separated in the file by a delimiter character (see −d); e.g. −f1,7 copies the first and seventh field only. Lines with no field delimiters will be passed through unchanged (useful for table subheadings), unless −s is specified.
-d	the character following −d is the field delimiter (−f option only). Default is tab. Space as a delimiter must be quoted.
-s	suppresses lines with no delimiter characters in case of −f option. Unless specified, lines with no delimiters will be passed through untouched.

Either −c or −f option must be specified.

Examples

**cut -f1,7 table	tbl	nroff ...**	prints columns 1 and 7 of table
cut -d: -f-2 /etc/lines ...	prints first two fields of /etc/lines file
**ls -l	cut -c1,40- ...**	lists current directory preceded by file type

DIAGNOSTICS

"line too long": A line can have no more than 255 characters or fields.
"bad list for c/f option": Missing -c or -f option or incorrectly specified list. No error occurs, if a line has fewer fields than the list calls for.

SEE ALSO

grep(1) allows horizontal "cuts" (by context) through a file.
paste(6) allows to put files together columnwise, i. e. horizontally. To reorder columns in a table, use cut and paste.

BUGS