

NAME

`cmp` – compare two files byte by byte

SYNOPSIS

`cmp` [*OPTION*]... *FILE1* [*FILE2* [*SKIP1* [*SKIP2*]]]

DESCRIPTION

Compare two files byte by byte.

-b --print-bytes

Print differing bytes.

-i SKIP --ignore-initial=SKIP

Skip the first SKIP bytes of input.

-i SKIP1:SKIP2 --ignore-initial=SKIP1:SKIP2

Skip the first SKIP1 bytes of FILE1 and the first SKIP2 bytes of FILE2.

-l --verbose

Output byte numbers and values of all differing bytes.

-n LIMIT --bytes=LIMIT

Compare at most LIMIT bytes.

-s --quiet --silent

Output nothing; yield exit status only.

-v --version

Output version info.

--help Output this help.

SKIP1 and SKIP2 are the number of bytes to skip in each file. SKIP values may be followed by the following multiplicative suffixes: kB 1000, K 1024, MB 1,000,000, M 1,048,576, GB 1,000,000,000, G 1,073,741,824, and so on for T, P, E, Z, Y.

If a FILE is '-' or missing, read standard input. Exit status is 0 if inputs are the same, 1 if different, 2 if trouble.

AUTHOR

Written by Torbjorn Granlund and David MacKenzie.

REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to <bug-gnu-utils@gnu.org>.

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SEE ALSO

The full documentation for `cmp` is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the `info` and `cmp` programs are properly installed at your site, the command

info diff

should give you access to the complete manual.

NAME

`diff` – find differences between two files

SYNOPSIS

`diff` [options] from-file to-file

DESCRIPTION

In the simplest case, *diff* compares the contents of the two files *from-file* and *to-file*. A file name of `-` stands for text read from the standard input. As a special case, `diff -` compares a copy of standard input to itself.

If *from-file* is a directory and *to-file* is not, *diff* compares the file in *from-file* whose file name is that of *to-file*, and vice versa. The non-directory file must not be `-`.

If both *from-file* and *to-file* are directories, *diff* compares corresponding files in both directories, in alphabetical order; this comparison is not recursive unless the `-r` or `--recursive` option is given. *diff* never compares the actual contents of a directory as if it were a file. The file that is fully specified may not be standard input, because standard input is nameless and the notion of “file with the same name” does not apply.

`diff` options begin with `-`, so normally *from-file* and *to-file* may not begin with `-`. However, `--` as an argument by itself treats the remaining arguments as file names even if they begin with `-`.

Options

Below is a summary of all of the options that GNU *diff* accepts. Most options have two equivalent names, one of which is a single letter preceded by `-`, and the other of which is a long name preceded by `--`. Multiple single letter options (unless they take an argument) can be combined into a single command line word: `-ac` is equivalent to `-a -c`. Long named options can be abbreviated to any unique prefix of their name. Brackets ([and]) indicate that an option takes an optional argument.

`-lines` Show *lines* (an integer) lines of context. This option does not specify an output format by itself; it has no effect unless it is combined with `-c` or `-u`. This option is obsolete. For proper operation, *patch* typically needs at least two lines of context.

`-a` Treat all files as text and compare them line-by-line, even if they do not seem to be text.

`-b` Ignore changes in amount of white space.

`-B` Ignore changes that just insert or delete blank lines.

`--brief`

Report only whether the files differ, not the details of the differences.

`-c` Use the context output format.

`-C lines`

`--context[=lines]`

Use the context output format, showing *lines* (an integer) lines of context, or three if *lines* is not given. For proper operation, *patch* typically needs at least two lines of context.

`--changed-group-format=format`

Use *format* to output a line group containing differing lines from both files in if-then-else format.

`-d` Change the algorithm to perhaps find a smaller set of changes. This makes *diff* slower (sometimes much slower).

`-D name`

Make merged if-then-else format output, conditional on the preprocessor macro *name*.

`-e`

`--ed` Make output that is a valid *ed* script.

`--exclude=pattern`

When comparing directories, ignore files and subdirectories whose basenames match *pattern*.

- exclude-from=*file***
When comparing directories, ignore files and subdirectories whose basenames match any pattern contained in *file*.
- expand-tabs**
Expand tabs to spaces in the output, to preserve the alignment of tabs in the input files.
- f** Make output that looks vaguely like an *ed* script but has changes in the order they appear in the file.
- F *regexp***
In context and unified format, for each hunk of differences, show some of the last preceding line that matches *regexp*.
- forward-ed**
Make output that looks vaguely like an *ed* script but has changes in the order they appear in the file.
- h** This option currently has no effect; it is present for Unix compatibility.
- H** Use heuristics to speed handling of large files that have numerous scattered small changes.
- horizon-lines=*lines***
Do not discard the last *lines* lines of the common prefix and the first *lines* lines of the common suffix.
- i** Ignore changes in case; consider upper- and lower-case letters equivalent.
- I *regexp***
Ignore changes that just insert or delete lines that match *regexp*.
- ifdef=*name***
Make merged if-then-else format output, conditional on the preprocessor macro *name*.
- ignore-all-space**
Ignore white space when comparing lines.
- ignore-blank-lines**
Ignore changes that just insert or delete blank lines.
- ignore-case**
Ignore changes in case; consider upper- and lower-case to be the same.
- ignore-matching-lines=*regexp***
Ignore changes that just insert or delete lines that match *regexp*.
- ignore-space-change**
Ignore changes in amount of white space.
- initial-tab**
Output a tab rather than a space before the text of a line in normal or context format. This causes the alignment of tabs in the line to look normal.
- l** Pass the output through *pr* to paginate it.
- L *label***
- label=*label***
Use *label* instead of the file name in the context format and unified format headers.
- left-column**
Print only the left column of two common lines in side by side format.
- line-format=*format***
Use *format* to output all input lines in in-then-else format.
- minimal**
Change the algorithm to perhaps find a smaller set of changes. This makes *diff* slower (sometimes much slower).
- n** Output RCS-format diffs; like **-f** except that each command specifies the number of lines affected.

- N**
- new-file**
In directory comparison, if a file is found in only one directory, treat it as present but empty in the other directory.
- new-group-format=*format***
Use *format* to output a group of lines taken from just the second file in if-then-else format.
- new-line-format=*format***
Use *format* to output a line taken from just the second file in if-then-else format.
- old-group-format=*format***
Use *format* to output a group of lines taken from just the first file in if-then-else format.
- old-line-format=*format***
Use *format* to output a line taken from just the first file in if-then-else format.
- p** Show which C function each change is in.
- P** When comparing directories, if a file appears only in the second directory of the two, treat it as present but empty in the other.
- paginate**
Pass the output through *pr* to paginate it.
- q** Report only whether the files differ, not the details of the differences.
- r** When comparing directories, recursively compare any subdirectories found.
- rcs** Output RCS-format diffs; like **-f** except that each command specifies the number of lines affected.
- recursive**
When comparing directories, recursively compare any subdirectories found.
- report-identical-files**
- s** Report when two files are the same.
- S *file*** When comparing directories, start with the file *file*. This is used for resuming an aborted comparison.
- sdiff-merge-assist**
Print extra information to help *sdiff*. *sdiff* uses this option when it runs *diff*. This option is not intended for users to use directly.
- show-c-function**
Show which C function each change is in.
- show-function-line=*regexp***
In context and unified format, for each hunk of differences, show some of the last preceding line that matches *regexp*.
- side-by-side**
Use the side by side output format.
- speed-large-files**
Use heuristics to speed handling of large files that have numerous scattered small changes.
- starting-file=*file***
When comparing directories, start with the file *file*. This is used for resuming an aborted comparison.
- suppress-common-lines**
Do not print common lines in side by side format.
- t** Expand tabs to spaces in the output, to preserve the alignment of tabs in the input files.
- T** Output a tab rather than a space before the text of a line in normal or context format. This causes the alignment of tabs in the line to look normal.
- text** Treat all files as text and compare them line-by-line, even if they do not appear to be text.

- u** Use the unified output format.
- unchanged-group-format=*format***
Use *format* to output a group of common lines taken from both files in if-then-else format.
- unchanged-line-format=*format***
Use *format* to output a line common to both files in if-then-else format.
- unidirectional-new-file**
When comparing directories, if a file appears only in the second directory of the two, treat it as present but empty in the other.
- U *lines***
- unified[=*lines*]**
Use the unified output format, showing *lines* (an integer) lines of context, or three if *lines* is not given. For proper operation, *patch* typically needs at least two lines of context.
- v**
- version**
Output the version number of *diff*.
- w** Ignore white space when comparing lines.
- W *columns***
- width=*columns***
Use an output width of *columns* in side by side format.
- x *pattern***
When comparing directories, ignore files and subdirectories whose basenames match *pattern*.
- X *file*** When comparing directories, ignore files and subdirectories whose basenames match any pattern contained in *file*.
- y** Use the side by side output format.

SEE ALSO

cmp(1), *comm*(1), *diff3*(1), *ed*(1), *patch*(1), *pr*(1), *sdiff*(1).

DIAGNOSTICS

An exit status of 0 means no differences were found, 1 means some differences were found, and 2 means trouble.

NAME

diff3 – compare three files line by line

SYNOPSIS

diff3 [*OPTION*]... *MYFILE* *OLDFILE* *YOURFILE*

DESCRIPTION

Compare three files line by line.

-e --ed

Output unmerged changes from OLDFILE to YOURFILE into MYFILE.

-E --show-overlap

Output unmerged changes, bracketing conflicts.

-A --show-all

Output all changes, bracketing conflicts.

-x --overlap-only

Output overlapping changes.

-X Output overlapping changes, bracketing them.

-3 --easy-only

Output unmerged nonoverlapping changes.

-m --merge

Output merged file instead of ed script (default **-A**).

-L LABEL --label=LABEL

Use LABEL instead of file name.

-i Append 'w' and 'q' commands to ed scripts.

-a --text

Treat all files as text.

--strip-trailing-cr

Strip trailing carriage return on input.

-T --initial-tab

Make tabs line up by prepending a tab.

--diff-program=PROGRAM

Use PROGRAM to compare files.

-v --version

Output version info.

--help Output this help.

If a FILE is '-', read standard input. Exit status is 0 if successful, 1 if conflicts, 2 if trouble.

AUTHOR

Written by Randy Smith.

REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to <bug-gnu-utils@gnu.org>.

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SEE ALSO

The full documentation for **diff3** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **diff3** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

info diff

should give you access to the complete manual.

NAME

`sdiff` – side-by-side merge of file differences

SYNOPSIS

`sdiff` [*OPTION*]... *FILE1 FILE2*

DESCRIPTION

Side-by-side merge of file differences.

-o *FILE* **--output=FILE**

Operate interactively, sending output to *FILE*.

-i **--ignore-case**

Consider upper- and lower-case to be the same.

-E **--ignore-tab-expansion**

Ignore changes due to tab expansion.

-b **--ignore-space-change**

Ignore changes in the amount of white space.

-W **--ignore-all-space**

Ignore all white space.

-B **--ignore-blank-lines**

Ignore changes whose lines are all blank.

-I *RE* **--ignore-matching-lines=RE**

Ignore changes whose lines all match *RE*.

--strip-trailing-cr

Strip trailing carriage return on input.

-a **--text**

Treat all files as text.

-w *NUM* **--width=NUM**

Output at most *NUM* (default 130) print columns.

-l **--left-column**

Output only the left column of common lines.

-s **--suppress-common-lines**

Do not output common lines.

-t **--expand-tabs**

Expand tabs to spaces in output.

--tabsize=NUM

Tab stops are every *NUM* (default 8) print columns.

-d **--minimal**

Try hard to find a smaller set of changes.

-H **--speed-large-files**

Assume large files and many scattered small changes.

--diff-program=PROGRAM

Use *PROGRAM* to compare files.

-v **--version**

Output version info.

--help Output this help.

If a *FILE* is '-', read standard input. Exit status is 0 if inputs are the same, 1 if different, 2 if trouble.

AUTHOR

Written by Thomas Lord.

REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to <bug-gnu-utils@gnu.org>.

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SEE ALSO

The full documentation for **sdiff** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **sdiff** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

info ddiff

should give you access to the complete manual.