NAME

   column — columnate lists

SYNOPSIS

   column [`-entx`][`-c` *columns*][`-s` *sep*][*file ...*]

DESCRIPTION

   The **column** utility formats its input into multiple columns. Rows are filled before columns. Input is taken from *file* operands, or, by default, from the standard input. Empty lines are ignored unless the `-e` option is used.

   The options are as follows:

   `-c`   Output is formatted for a display *columns* wide.

   `-s`   Specify a set of characters to be used to delimit columns for the `-t` option.

   `-t`   Determine the number of columns the input contains and create a table. Columns are delimited with whitespace, by default, or with the characters supplied using the `-s` option. Useful for pretty-printing displays.

   `-x`   Fill columns before filling rows.

   `-n`   By default, the column command will merge multiple adjacent delimiters into a single delimiter when using the `-t` option; this option disables that behavior. This option is a Debian GNU/Linux extension.

   `-e`   Do not ignore empty lines.

ENVIRONMENT

   The `COLUMNS`, `LANG`, `LC_ALL` and `LC_CTYPE` environment variables affect the execution of **column** as described in environ(7).

EXIT STATUS

   The **column** utility exits 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

EXAMPLES

```
(printf "PERM LINKS OWNER GROUP SIZE MONTH DAY " ; \
printf "HH:MM/YEAR NAME\n" ; \
ls -l | sed 1d) | column -t
```

SEE ALSO

   colrm(1), ls(1), paste(1), sort(1)

HISTORY

   The **column** command appeared in 4.3 BSD−Reno.

BUGS

   Input lines are limited to 512 times `LINE_MAX` (1M) wide characters in length.