

NAME

ln – make links between files

SYNOPSIS

ln [*OPTION*]... [-*T*] *TARGET LINK_NAME*

ln [*OPTION*]... *TARGET*

ln [*OPTION*]... *TARGET*... *DIRECTORY*

ln [*OPTION*]... -*t* *DIRECTORY TARGET*...

DESCRIPTION

In the 1st form, create a link to *TARGET* with the name *LINK_NAME*. In the 2nd form, create a link to *TARGET* in the current directory. In the 3rd and 4th forms, create links to each *TARGET* in *DIRECTORY*. Create hard links by default, symbolic links with **---symbolic**. By default, each destination (name of new link) should not already exist. When creating hard links, each *TARGET* must exist. Symbolic links can hold arbitrary text; if later resolved, a relative link is interpreted in relation to its parent directory.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

---backup[=*CONTROL*]

make a backup of each existing destination file

-b like **---backup** but does not accept an argument

-d, -F, ---directory

allow the superuser to attempt to hard link directories (note: will probably fail due to system restrictions, even for the superuser)

-f, ---force

remove existing destination files

-i, ---interactive

prompt whether to remove destinations

-L, ---logical

dereference *TARGET*s that are symbolic links

-n, ---no-dereference

treat *LINK_NAME* as a normal file if it is a symbolic link to a directory

-P, ---physical

make hard links directly to symbolic links

-r, ---relative

create symbolic links relative to link location

-s, ---symbolic

make symbolic links instead of hard links

-S, ---suffix=*SUFFIX*

override the usual backup suffix

-t, ---target-directory=*DIRECTORY*

specify the *DIRECTORY* in which to create the links

-T, ---no-target-directory

treat *LINK_NAME* as a normal file always

-v, ---verbose

print name of each linked file

---help display this help and exit

---version

output version information and exit

The backup suffix is '~', unless set with **---suffix** or *SIMPLE_BACKUP_SUFFIX*. The version control

method may be selected via the **--backup** option or through the VERSION_CONTROL environment variable. Here are the values:

none, off

never make backups (even if **--backup** is given)

numbered, t

make numbered backups

existing, nil

numbered if numbered backups exist, simple otherwise

simple, never

always make simple backups

Using **-s** ignores **-L** and **-P**. Otherwise, the last option specified controls behavior when a TARGET is a symbolic link, defaulting to **-P**.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report In translation bugs to <<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

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SEE ALSO

[link\(2\)](#), [symlink\(2\)](#)

Full documentation at: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/ln>>

or available locally via: info '(coreutils) ln invocation'