

NAME

mcookie – generate magic cookies for xauth

SYNOPSIS

mcookie [options]

DESCRIPTION

mcookie generates a 128-bit random hexadecimal number for use with the X authority system. Typical usage:

```
xauth add :0 . 'mcookie'
```

The "random" number generated is actually the MD5 message digest of random information coming from one of the sources *getrandom()* system call, */dev/urandom*, */dev/random*, or the *libc pseudo-random functions*, in this preference order. See also the option **--file**.

OPTIONS

-f, --file file

Use this *file* as an additional source of randomness (for example */dev/urandom*). When *file* is '-', characters are read from standard input.

-m, --max-size number

Read from *file* only this *number* of bytes. This option is meant to be used when reading additional randomness from a file or device.

The *number* argument may be followed by the multiplicative suffixes KiB=1024, MiB=1024*1024, and so on for GiB, TiB, PiB, EiB, ZiB and YiB (the "iB" is optional, e.g., "K" has the same meaning as "KiB") or the suffixes KB=1000, MB=1000*1000, and so on for GB, TB, PB, EB, ZB and YB.

-v, --verbose

Inform where randomness originated, with amount of entropy read from each source.

-V, --version

Display version information and exit.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

BUGS

It is assumed that none of the randomness sources will block.

FILES

/dev/urandom

/dev/random

SEE ALSO

[md5sum\(1\)](#), [X\(1\)](#), [xauth\(1\)](#), [rand\(3\)](#)

AVAILABILITY

The mcookie command is part of the util-linux package and is available from [Linux Kernel Archive](#).