

NAME

mt – control magnetic tape drive operation

SYNOPSIS

mt [-V] [-f *device*] [--file=*device*] [--rsh-command=*command*] [--version] *operation* [*count*]

DESCRIPTION

This manual page documents the GNU version of **mt**. **mt** performs the given *operation*, which must be one of the tape operations listed below, on a tape drive.

The default tape device to operate on is taken from the file `/usr/include/sys/mtio.h` when **mt** is compiled. It can be overridden by giving a device file name in the environment variable **TAPE** or by a command line option (see below), which also overrides the environment variable.

The device must be either a character special file or a remote tape drive. To use a tape drive on another machine as the archive, use a filename that starts with ‘HOSTNAME:’. The hostname can be preceded by a username and an ‘@’ to access the remote tape drive as that user, if you have permission to do so (typically an entry in that user’s ‘~/rhosts’ file).

The available operations are listed below. Unique abbreviations are accepted. Not all operations are available on all systems, or work on all types of tape drives. Some operations optionally take a repeat count, which can be given after the operation name and defaults to 1.

eof, weof

Write *count* EOF marks at current position.

fsf Forward space *count* files. The tape is positioned on the first block of the next file.

bsf Backward space *count* files. The tape is positioned on the first block of the next file.

fsr Forward space *count* records.

bsr Backward space *count* records.

bsfm Backward space *count* file marks. The tape is positioned on the beginning-of-the-tape side of the file mark.

fsfm Forward space *count* file marks. The tape is positioned on the beginning-of-the-tape side of the file mark.

asf Absolute space to file number *count*. Equivalent to rewind followed by **fsf** *count*.

seek Seek to block number *count*.

eom Space to the end of the recorded media on the tape (for appending files onto tapes).

rewind Rewind the tape.

offline, rewoffl

Rewind the tape and, if applicable, unload the tape.

status Print status information about the tape unit.

retension

Rewind the tape, then wind it to the end of the reel, then rewind it again.

erase Perform long erase of tape. If *count* is 0, perform short erase of tape (some devices do not support this).

mt exits with a status of 0 if the operation succeeded, 1 if the operation or device name given was invalid, or 2 if the operation failed.

OPTIONS**-f, --file=*device***

Use *device* as the file name of the tape drive to operate on. To use a tape drive on another machine, use a filename that starts with ‘HOSTNAME:’. The hostname can be preceded by a username and an ‘@’ to access the remote tape drive as that user, if you have permission to do so (typically an entry in that user’s ‘~/rhosts’ file).

--rsh-command=command

Notifies **mt** that it should use *command* to communicate with remote devices instead of **/usr/bin/ssh** or **/usr/bin/rsh**.

-V, --version

Print the version number of **mt**.

BUG REPORTS

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

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