

NAME

tail – output the last part of files

SYNOPSIS

tail [*OPTION*]... [*FILE*]...

DESCRIPTION

Print the last 10 lines of each *FILE* to standard output. With more than one *FILE*, precede each with a header giving the file name.

With no *FILE*, or when *FILE* is `-`, read standard input.

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

-c, --bytes=[+]*NUM*

output the last *NUM* bytes; or use `-c +NUM` to output starting with byte *NUM* of each file

-f, --follow[={*name*|*descriptor*}]

output appended data as the file grows;

an absent option argument means 'descriptor'

-F same as `--follow=name --retry`

-n, --lines=[+]*NUM*

output the last *NUM* lines, instead of the last 10; or use `-n +NUM` to output starting with line *NUM*

--max-unchanged-stats=*N*

with `--follow=name`, reopen a *FILE* which has not

changed size after *N* (default 5) iterations to see if it has been unlinked or renamed (this is the usual case of rotated log files); with `inotify`, this option is rarely useful

--pid=*PID*

with `-f`, terminate after process ID, *PID* dies

-q, --quiet, --silent

never output headers giving file names

--retry

keep trying to open a file if it is inaccessible

-s, --sleep-interval=*N*

with `-f`, sleep for approximately *N* seconds (default 1.0) between iterations; with `inotify` and `--pid=P`, check process *P* at least once every *N* seconds

-v, --verbose

always output headers giving file names

-z, --zero-terminated

line delimiter is NUL, not newline

--help display this help and exit

--version

output version information and exit

NUM may have a multiplier suffix: b 512, kB 1000, K 1024, MB 1000*1000, M 1024*1024, GB 1000*1000*1000, G 1024*1024*1024, and so on for T, P, E, Z, Y.

With `--follow` (`-f`), tail defaults to following the file descriptor, which means that even if a tail'ed file is renamed, tail will continue to track its end. This default behavior is not desirable when you really want to track the actual name of the file, not the file descriptor (e.g., log rotation). Use `--follow=name` in that case. That causes tail to track the named file in a way that accommodates renaming, removal and creation.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

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

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

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SEE ALSO

[head\(1\)](#)

Full documentation at: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/tail>>
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) tail invocation'