

NAME

`clri` – clear i-node

SYNOPSIS

`clri` *i-number* [*filesystem*]

DESCRIPTION

Clri writes zeros on the 32 bytes occupied by the i-node numbered *i-number*. If the *file system* argument is given, the i-node resides on the given device, otherwise on a default file system. The file system argument must be a special file name referring to a device containing a file system. After *clri*, any blocks in the affected file will show up as “missing” in a *check* of of the file system.

Read and write permission is required on the specified file system device. The i-node becomes allocatable.

The primary purpose of this routine is to remove a file which for some reason appears in no directory. If it is used to zap an i-node which does appear in a directory, care should be taken to track down the entry and remove it. Otherwise, when the i-node is reallocated to some new file, the old entry will still point to that file. At that point removing the old entry will destroy the new file. The new entry will again point to an unallocated i-node, so the whole cycle is likely to be repeated again and again.

BUGS

Whatever the default file system is, it is likely to be wrong. Specify the file system explicitly.

If the file is open, *clri* is likely to be ineffective.