

NAME

mt – manipulate magtape

SYNOPSIS

mt [*key*] [*name ...*]

DESCRIPTION

mt saves and restores selected portions of the file system hierarchy on magtape. Its actions are controlled by the *key* argument. The key is a string of characters containing at most one function letter and possibly one or more function modifiers. Other arguments to the command are file or directory names specifying which files are to be dumped, restored, or tabled.

The function portion of the key is specified by one of the following letters:

- r** The indicated files and directories, together with all subdirectories, are dumped onto the tape. The old contents of the tape are lost. If no arguments are given, **r** is the default.
- x** extracts the named files from the tape to the file system. The owner, mode, and date-modified are restored to what they were when the file was dumped. If no file argument is given, the entire contents of the tape are extracted.
- t** lists the names of all files stored on the tape which are the same as or are hierarchically below the file arguments. If no file argument is given, the entire contents of the tape are tabled.
- l** is the same as **t** except that an expanded listing is produced giving all the available information about the listed files.

The following characters may be used in addition to the letter which selects the function desired.

- 0, ..., 7** This modifier selects the drive on which the tape is mounted. **0** is the default.
- v** Normally *mt* does its work silently. The **v** (verbose) option causes it to type the name of each file it treats preceded by a letter to indicate what is happening: **a** indicates a file is being added; **x** indicates a file is being extracted. The **v** option can be used with **r** and **x** only.
- f** causes new entries copied on tape to be 'fake' in that only the entries, not the data associated with the entries are updated. Such fake entries cannot be extracted. Usable only with **r**.
- w** causes *mt* to pause before treating each file, type the indicative letter and the file name (as with **v**) and await the user's response. Response **y** means 'yes', so the file is treated. Null response means 'no', and the file does not take part in whatever is being done. Response **x** means 'exit'; the *mt* command terminates immediately. In the **x** function, files previously asked about have been extracted already. With **r**, no change has been made to the tape.

FILES

/dev/mt?

SEE ALSO

tap(I), tap(V)

DIAGNOSTICS

Several; the only non-obvious one is:

'Phase error' – a file has changed after it was selected for dumping but before it was dumped.

BUGS

It doesn't save the mode correctly, so files are restored mode 666. If, during an **x**, the files are specified in a different order than they are on the tape, seek errors will result because the command believes the tape cannot be rewound.