

**NAME**

cmp - compare two files byte by byte

**SYNOPSIS**

**cmp** [*OPTION*]... *FILE1* [*FILE2* [*SKIP1* [*SKIP2*]]]

**DESCRIPTION**

Compare two files byte by byte.

The optional *SKIP1* and *SKIP2* specify the number of bytes to skip at the beginning of each file (zero by default).

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

**-b, --print-bytes**

print differing bytes

**-i, --ignore-initial=*SKIP***

skip first *SKIP* bytes of both inputs

**-i, --ignore-initial=*SKIP1:SKIP2***

skip first *SKIP1* bytes of *FILE1* and first *SKIP2* bytes of *FILE2*

**-l, --verbose**

output byte numbers and differing byte values

**-n, --bytes=*LIMIT***

compare at most *LIMIT* bytes

**-s, --quiet, --silent**

suppress all normal output

**--help** display this help and exit

**-v, --version**

output version information and exit

*SKIP* values may be followed by the following multiplicative suffixes: kB 1000, K 1024, MB 1,000,000, M 1,048,576, GB 1,000,000,000, G 1,073,741,824, and so on for T, P, E, Z, Y.

If a *FILE* is '-' or missing, read standard input. Exit status is 0 if inputs are the same, 1 if different, 2 if trouble.

**AUTHOR**

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**REPORTING BUGS**

Report bugs to: [bug-diffutils@gnu.org](mailto:bug-diffutils@gnu.org)

GNU diffutils home page: <<http://www.gnu.org/software/diffutils/>>

General help using GNU software: <<http://www.gnu.org/gethelp/>>

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**SEE ALSO**

[diff\(1\)](#), [diff3\(1\)](#), [sdiff\(1\)](#)

The full documentation for **cmp** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **cmp** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

**info cmp**

should give you access to the complete manual.