

NAME

cp - copy files and directories

SYNOPSIS

```
cp [OPTION]... [-T] SOURCE DEST
cp [OPTION]... SOURCE... DIRECTORY
cp [OPTION]... -t DIRECTORY SOURCE...
```

DESCRIPTION

Copy SOURCE to DEST, or multiple SOURCE(s) to DIRECTORY.

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

-a, --archive

same as **-dR --preserve=all**

--attributes-only

don't copy the file data, just the attributes

--backup[=CONTROL]

make a backup of each existing destination file

-b like **--backup** but does not accept an argument**--copy-contents**

copy contents of special files when recursive

-d same as **--no-dereference --preserve=links****-f, --force**

if an existing destination file cannot be opened, remove it and try again (this option is ignored when the **-n** option is also used)

-i, --interactive

prompt before overwrite (overrides a previous **-n** option)

-H follow command-line symbolic links in SOURCE**-l, --link**

hard link files instead of copying

-L, --dereference

always follow symbolic links in SOURCE

-n, --no-clobber

do not overwrite an existing file (overrides a previous **-i** option)

-P, --no-dereference

never follow symbolic links in SOURCE

-p same as **--preserve=mode,ownership,timestamps****--preserve[=ATTR_LIST]**

preserve the specified attributes (default: mode,ownership,timestamps), if possible additional attributes: context, links, xattr, all

--no-preserve=ATTR_LIST

don't preserve the specified attributes

--parents

use full source file name under DIRECTORY

-R, -r, --recursive

copy directories recursively

--reflink[=WHEN]

control clone/CoW copies. See below

- remove-destination**
remove each existing destination file before attempting to open it (contrast with **--force**)
- sparse=WHEN**
control creation of sparse files. See below
- strip-trailing-slashes**
remove any trailing slashes from each SOURCE argument
- s, --symbolic-link**
make symbolic links instead of copying
- S, --suffix=SUFFIX**
override the usual backup suffix
- t, --target-directory=DIRECTORY**
copy all SOURCE arguments into DIRECTORY
- T, --no-target-directory**
treat DEST as a normal file
- u, --update**
copy only when the SOURCE file is newer than the destination file or when the destination file is missing
- v, --verbose**
explain what is being done
- x, --one-file-system**
stay on this file system
- Z** set SELinux security context of destination file to default type
- context[=CTX]**
like **-Z**, or if CTX is specified then set the SELinux or SMACK security context to CTX
- help** display this help and exit
- version**
output version information and exit

By default, sparse SOURCE files are detected by a crude heuristic and the corresponding DEST file is made sparse as well. That is the behavior selected by **--sparse=auto**. Specify **--sparse=always** to create a sparse DEST file whenever the SOURCE file contains a long enough sequence of zero bytes. Use **--sparse=never** to inhibit creation of sparse files.

When **--reflink[=always]** is specified, perform a lightweight copy, where the data blocks are copied only when modified. If this is not possible the copy fails, or if **--reflink=auto** is specified, fall back to a standard copy.

The backup suffix is `~`, unless set with **--suffix** or `SIMPLE_BACKUP_SUFFIX`. The version control method may be selected via the **--backup** option or through the `VERSION_CONTROL` environment variable. Here are the values:

- none, off
never make backups (even if **--backup** is given)
- numbered, t
make numbered backups
- existing, nil
numbered if numbered backups exist, simple otherwise
- simple, never
always make simple backups

As a special case, `cp` makes a backup of SOURCE when the force and backup options are given

and SOURCE and DEST are the same name for an existing, regular file.

AUTHOR

Written by Torbjorn Granlund, David MacKenzie, and Jim Meyering.

REPORTING BUGS

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

Report cp translation bugs to <<http://translationproject.org/team/>>

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SEE ALSO

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