

NAME

ln - make links between files

SYNOPSIS

ln [*OPTION*]... [-*T*] *TARGET LINK_NAME* (*1st form*)

ln [*OPTION*]... *TARGET* (*2nd form*)

ln [*OPTION*]... *TARGET... DIRECTORY* (*3rd form*)

ln [*OPTION*]... -*t* *DIRECTORY TARGET...* (*4th form*)

DESCRIPTION

In the 1st form, create a link to *TARGET* with the name *LINK_NAME*. In the 2nd form, create a link to *TARGET* in the current directory. In the 3rd and 4th forms, create links to each *TARGET* in *DIRECTORY*. Create hard links by default, symbolic links with **--symbolic**. By default, each destination (name of new link) should not already exist. When creating hard links, each *TARGET* must exist. Symbolic links can hold arbitrary text; if later resolved, a relative link is interpreted in relation to its parent directory.

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

--backup[=*CONTROL*]

make a backup of each existing destination file

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

-d, -F, --directory

allow the superuser to attempt to hard link directories (note: will probably fail due to system restrictions, even for the superuser)

-f, --force

remove existing destination files

-i, --interactive

prompt whether to remove destinations

-L, --logical

dereference *TARGET*s that are symbolic links

-n, --no-dereference

treat *LINK_NAME* as a normal file if it is a symbolic link to a directory

-P, --physical

make hard links directly to symbolic links

-r, --relative

create symbolic links relative to link location

-s, --symbolic

make symbolic links instead of hard links

-S, --suffix=*SUFFIX*

override the usual backup suffix

-t, --target-directory=*DIRECTORY*

specify the *DIRECTORY* in which to create the links

-T, --no-target-directory

treat *LINK_NAME* as a normal file always

-v, --verbose

print name of each linked file

--help display this help and exit

--version

output version information and exit

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

Using `-s` ignores `-L` and `-P`. Otherwise, the last option specified controls behavior when a `TARGET` is a symbolic link, defaulting to `-P`.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

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

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

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SEE ALSO

[link\(2\)](#), [symlink\(2\)](#)

Full documentation at: <<http://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/ln>>

or available locally via: `info (coreutils) ln invocation`