

NAME

mcookie - generate magic cookies for xauth

SYNOPSIS

mcookie [*options*]

DESCRIPTION

mcookie generates a 128-bit random hexadecimal number for use with the X authority system.

Typical usage:

```
xauth add :0 . 'mcookie'
```

The random number generated is actually the output of the MD5 message digest fed with random information from one of the sources */dev/urandom*, */dev/random*, or *libc pseudo-random functions* in this preference order.

OPTIONS

-f, --file=FILE

Use additional file as a macig cookie random seed. When file is defined as '-' character input is read from stdin.

-m, --max-size=number

Read from *FILE* only *number* of bytes. This option is meant to be used when reading additional randomness from a device.

The *number* argument may be followed by the multiplicative suffixes KiB=1024, MiB=1024*1024, and so on for GiB, TiB, PiB, EiB, ZiB and YiB (the iB is optional, e.g., K has the same meaning as KiB) or the suffixes KB=1000, MB=1000*1000, and so on for GB, TB, PB, EB, ZB and YB.

-v, --verbose

Inform where randomness originated, with amount of entropy read from each source.

-V, --version

Display version information and exit.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

BUGS

It is assumed that none of the randomness sources will block.

FILES

/dev/urandom

/dev/random

SEE ALSO

[X\(1\)](#), [xauth\(1\)](#), [md5sum\(1\)](#), [rand\(3\)](#)

AVAILABILITY

The mcookie command is part of the util-linux package and is available from [Linux Kernel Archive](#).