

**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](#).