NAME

mt - control magnetic tape drive operation

SYNOPSIS

mt [-V] [-f device] [--file=device] [--rsh-command=command] [--version] operation [count]

DESCRIPTION

This manual page documents the GNU version of **mt**. **mt** performs the given *operation*, which must be one of the tape operations listed below, on a tape drive.

The default tape device to operate on is taken from the file */usr/include/sys/mtio.h* when **mt** is compiled. It can be overridden by giving a device file name in the environment variable **TAPE** or by a command line option (see below), which also overrides the environment variable.

The device must be either a character special file or a remote tape drive. To use a tape drive on another machine as the archive, use a filename that starts with 'HOSTNAME:'. The hostname can be preceded by a username and an '@' to access the remote tape drive as that user, if you have permission to do so (typically an entry in that user's '~/.rhosts' file).

The available operations are listed below. Unique abbreviations are accepted. Not all operations are available on all systems, or work on all types of tape drives. Some operations optionally take a repeat count, which can be given after the operation name and defaults to 1.

eof, weof
> Write *count* EOF marks at current position.

fsf
> Forward space *count* files. The tape is positioned on the first block of the next file.

bsf
> Backward space *count* files. The tape is positioned on the first block of the next file.

fsr
> Forward space *count* records.

bsr
> Backward space *count* records.

bsfm
> Backward space *count* file marks. The tape is positioned on the beginning-of-the-tape side of the file mark.

fsfm
> Forward space *count* file marks. The tape is positioned on the beginning-of-the-tape side of the file mark.

asf
> Absolute space to file number *count*. Equivalent to rewind followed by fsf *count*.

seek
> Seek to block number *count*.

eom
> Space to the end of the recorded media on the tape (for appending files onto tapes).

rewind
> Rewind the tape.

offline, rewoffl
> Rewind the tape and, if applicable, unload the tape.

status
> Print status information about the tape unit.

retension
> Rewind the tape, then wind it to the end of the reel, then rewind it again.

erase
> Erase the tape.

mt exits with a status of 0 if the operation succeeded, 1 if the operation or device name given was invalid, or 2 if the operation failed.

OPTIONS

-f, --file=device
> Use *device* as the file name of the tape drive to operate on. To use a tape drive on another machine, use a filename that starts with 'HOSTNAME:'. The hostname can be preceded by a username and an '@' to access the remote tape drive as that user, if you have permission to do so (typically an entry in that user's '~/.rhosts' file).

--rsh-command=command
>   Notifies **mt** that it should use *command* to communicate with remote devices instead of */usr/bin/ssh* or */usr/bin/rsh*.

-V, --version
>   Print the version number of **mt**.

REPORTING BUGS

Report cpio bugs to bug-cpio@gnu.org

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

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

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