

NAME

tailf - follow the growth of a log file

SYNOPSIS

tailf [option] *file*

DESCRIPTION

tailf is deprecated. It may have unfixed bugs and will be removed from util-linux in March 2017. Nowadays it's safe to use **tail -f** (from coreutils), in contrast to what the original documentation below says.

tailf will print out the last 10 lines of the given *file* and then wait for this *file* to grow. It is similar to **tail -f** but does not access the file when it is not growing. This has the side effect of not updating the access time for the file, so a filesystem flush does not occur periodically when no log activity is happening.

tailf is extremely useful for monitoring log files on a laptop when logging is infrequent and the user wishes the hard disk to spin down to conserve battery life.

-n, --lines=number, -number

Output the last *number* lines, instead of the last 10.

-V, --version

Display version information and exit.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

AUTHOR

This program was originally written by Rik Faith (faith@acm.org) and may be freely distributed under the terms of the X11/MIT License. There is ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY for this program.

The latest inotify-based implementation was written by Karel Zak (kzak@redhat.com).

SEE ALSO

[less\(1\)](#), [tail\(1\)](#)

AVAILABILITY

The tailf command is part of the util-linux package and is available from ftp://ftp.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/.