

NAME

losetup - set up and control loop devices

SYNOPSIS

Get info:

```
losetup loopdev
losetup -l [-a]
losetup -j file [-o offset]
```

Detach a loop device:

```
losetup -d loopdev...
```

Detach all associated loop devices:

```
losetup -D
```

Print the name of the first unused loop device:

```
losetup -f
```

Set up a loop device:

```
losetup [-o offset] [--sizelimit size]
        [-Pr] [--show] -floopdev file
```

Resize a loop device:

```
losetup -c loopdev
```

DESCRIPTION

losetup is used to associate loop devices with regular files or block devices, to detach loop devices, and to query the status of a loop device. If only the *loopdev* argument is given, the status of the corresponding loop device is shown. If no option is given, all loop devices are shown.

Note that the old output format (i.e. **losetup -a**) with comma-delimited strings is deprecated in favour of the **--list** output format.

OPTIONS

The *size* and *offset* arguments 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.

-a, --all

Show the status of all loop devices. Note that not all information is accessible for non-root users. See also **--list**. The old output format (as printed without **--list**) is deprecated.

-c, --set-capacity *loopdev*

Force the loop driver to reread the size of the file associated with the specified loop device.

-d, --detach *loopdev...*

Detach the file or device associated with the specified loop device(s).

-D, --detach-all

Detach all associated loop devices.

-f, --find

Find the first unused loop device. If a *file* argument is present, use the found device as loop device. Otherwise, just print its name.

- j, --associated *file***
Show the status of all loop devices associated with the given *file*.
- l, --list**
If a loop device or the **-a** option is specified, print the default columns for either the specified loop device or all loop devices; the default is to print info about all devices. See also **--output**, **--noheadings** and **--raw**.
- n, --noheadings**
Don't print headings for **--list** output format.
- o, --offset *offset***
The data start is moved *offset* bytes into the specified file or device.
- O, --output *columns***
Specify the columns that are to be printed for the **--list** output.
- P, --partscan**
Force the kernel to scan the partition table on a newly created loop device.
- raw** Use the raw **--list** output format.
- r, --read-only**
Set up a read-only loop device.
- sizelimit *size***
The data end is set to no more than *size* bytes after the data start.
- show**
Display the name of the assigned loop device if the **-f** option and a *file* argument are present.
- v, --verbose**
Verbose mode.
- V, --version**
Display version information and exit.
- h, --help**
Display help text and exit.

ENCRYPTION

Cryptoloop is no longer supported in favor of dm-crypt. For more details see cryptsetup(8).

RETURN VALUE

losetup returns 0 on success, nonzero on failure. When **losetup** displays the status of a loop device, it returns 1 if the device is not configured and 2 if an error occurred which prevented determining the status of the device.

FILES

/dev/loop[0..N]
loop block devices

/dev/loop-control
loop control device

EXAMPLE

The following commands can be used as an example of using the loop device.

```
# dd if=/dev/zero of=~ /file.img bs=1MiB count=10
# losetup --find --show ~ /file.img
/dev/loop0
```

```
# mkfs -t ext2 /dev/loop0
# mount /dev/loop0 /mnt
# umount /dev/loop0
# losetup --detach /dev/loop0
```

ENVIRONMENT

LOOPDEV_DEBUG=all
enables debug output.

AUTHORS

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AVAILABILITY

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