

NAME

rmt - remote magnetic tape server

SYNOPSIS

rmt

DESCRIPTION

Rmt provides remote access to files and devices for [tar\(1\)](#), [cpio\(1\)](#), and similar backup utilities. It is normally called by running [rsh\(1\)](#) or [ssh\(1\)](#) to the remote machine, optionally using a different login name if one is supplied.

The calling program communicates with **rmt** by sending requests on its standard input and reading replies from the standard output. A request consists of a request letter followed by an argument (if required) and a newline character. Additional data, if any, are sent after the newline. On success, **rmt** returns

A*number*\n

where *number* is an ASCII representation of a decimal return code. Additional data are returned after this line. On error, the following response is returned:

E*errno*\n*error-message*\n

where *errno* is one of the system error codes, as described in [errno\(3\)](#), and *error-message* is a one-line human-readable description of the error, as printed by [perror\(3\)](#).

Available commands and possible responses are discussed in detail in the subsequent section.

COMMANDS

O*device*\n*flags*\n

Opens the *device* with given *flags*. If a device had already been opened, it is closed before opening the new one.

Arguments

device The name of the device to open.

flags Flags for [open\(2\)](#): a decimal number, or any valid **O_*** constant from [fcntl.h](#) (the initial **O_** may be omitted), or a bitwise or (using **|**) of any number of these, e.g.:

```
576
64 | 512
CREAT | TRUNC
```

In addition, a combined form is also allowed, i.e. a decimal mode followed by its symbolic representation. In this case the symbolic representation is given preference.

Reply

A0\n on success.

Extensions

BSD version allows only decimal number as *flags*.

C[*device*]\n

Close the currently open device.

Arguments

Any arguments are silently ignored.

Reply

A0\n on success.

L*whence*\n*offset*\n

Performs an [lseek\(2\)](#) on the currently open device with the specified parameters.

Arguments

whence Where to measure offset from. Valid values are:

0, SET, SEEK_SET seek from the file beginning

1, CUR, SEEK_CUR seek from the current location
 2, END, SEEK_END seek from the file end

Reply

Aoffset\n on success. The *offset* is the new offset in file.

Extensions

BSD version allows only 0,1,2 as *whence*.

Rcount\n

Read *count* bytes of data from the current device.

Arguments

count number of bytes to read.

Reply

On success:

Ardcount\n

followed by *rdcount* bytes of data read from the device.

Wcount\n

Writes data onto the current device. The command is followed by *count* bytes of input data.

Arguments

count Number of bytes to write.

Reply

On success: **Awrcount**\n, where *wrcount* is the number of bytes actually written.

Iopcode\n*count*\n

Perform a **MTIOCOP** [ioctl\(2\)](#) command with the specified parameters.

Arguments

opcode **MTIOCOP** operation code.

count mt_count.

Reply

On success: **A0**\n.

S\n

Returns the status of the currently open device, as obtained from a **MTIOCGET** [ioctl\(2\)](#) call.

Arguments

None

Reply

On success: **Account**\n followed by *count* bytes of data.

SEE ALSO

[tar\(1\)](#).

BUGS

Using this utility as a general-purpose remote file access tool is discouraged.

BUG REPORTS

Report bugs to <bug-tar@gnu.org>.

HISTORY

The **rmt** command appeared in 4.2BSD. The GNU **rmt** is written from scratch, using the BSD specification.

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