

NAME

wipefs - wipe a signature from a device

SYNOPSIS

wipefs [-ahnpqtV] [-o *offset*] *device*...

DESCRIPTION

wipefs can erase filesystem, raid or partition-table signatures (magic strings) from the specified *device* to make the signatures invisible for libblkid.

wipefs does not erase the filesystem itself nor any other data from the device. When used without any options, **wipefs** lists all visible filesystems and the offsets of their basic signatures.

wipefs calls the BLKRRPART ioctl when it has erased a partition-table signature to inform the kernel about the change.

Note that some filesystems and some partition tables store more magic strings on the device. The **wipefs** command lists only the first offset where a magic string has been detected. The device is not scanned for additional magic strings for the same filesystem. It is possible that after a **wipefs -o *offset*** the same filesystem or partition table will still be visible because of another magic string on another offset.

When option **-a** is used, all magic strings that are visible for libblkid are erased.

Note that by default **wipefs** does not erase nested partition tables on non-whole disk devices. For this the option **--force** is required.

OPTIONS

-a, --all Erase all available signatures. The set of erased signatures can be restricted with the **-t** option.

-b, --backup

Create a signature backup to the file \$HOME/wipefs-<devname>-<offset>.bak. For more details see the **EXAMPLES** section.

-f, --force

Force erasure, even if the filesystem is mounted. This is required in order to erase a partition-table signature on a block device.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

-n, --no-act

Causes everything to be done except for the write() call.

-o, --offset *offset*

Specify the location (in bytes) of the signature which should be erased from the device. The *offset* number may include a "0x" prefix; then the number will be interpreted as a hex value. It is possible to specify multiple **-o** options.

The *offset* 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.

-p, --parsable

Print out in parsable instead of printable format. Encode all potentially unsafe characters of a string to the corresponding hex value prefixed by '\x'.

-q, --quiet

Suppress any messages after a successful signature wipe.

-t, --types *list*

Limit the set of printed or erased signatures. More than one type may be specified in a comma-separated list. The list or individual types can be prefixed with 'no' to specify the types on which no action should be taken. For more details see [mount\(8\)](#)

-V, --version

Display version information and exit.

EXAMPLES**wipefs --all --backup /dev/sdb**

Erases all signatures from the device /dev/sdb and creates a signature backup file ~/wipefs-sdb-<offset>.bak for each signature.

dd if=~/wipefs-sdb-0x00000438.bak of=/dev/sdb seek=\$((0x00000438)) bs=1 conv=notrunc

Restores an ext2 signature from the backup file ~/wipefs-sdb-0x00000438.bak.

AUTHOR

Karel Zak <kzak@redhat.com>

ENVIRONMENT

LIBBLKID_DEBUG=all

enables libblkid debug output.

SEE ALSO

[blkid\(8\)](#), [findfs\(8\)](#)

AVAILABILITY

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