

CMP(1)

User Commands

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NAME

cmp - compare two files byte by byte

SYNOPSIS

cmp [OPTION]... FILE1 [FILE2 [SKIP1 [SKIP2]]]

DESCRIPTION

Compare two files byte by byte.

The optional **SKIP1** and **SKIP2** specify the number of bytes to skip at the beginning of each file (zero by default).

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

-b, --print-bytes

print differing bytes

-i, --ignore-initial=SKIP

skip first **SKIP** bytes of both inputs

-i, --ignore-initial=SKIP1:SKIP2

-l, --verbose

output byte numbers and differing byte values

-n, --bytes=LIMIT

compare at most LIMIT bytes

-s, --quiet, --silent

suppress all normal output

--help display this help and exit

-v, --version

output version information and exit

SKIP values may be followed by the following multiplicative suffixes:

kB 1000, K 1024, MB 1,000,000, M 1,048,576, GB 1,000,000,000, G
1,073,741,824, and so on for T, P, E, Z, Y.

If a FILE is '-' or missing, read standard input. Exit status is 0 if
inputs are the same, 1 if different, 2 if trouble.

REPORTING BUGS

Report bugs to: bug-diffutils@gnu.org

GNU diffutils home page: [<https://www.gnu.org/software/diffutils/>](https://www.gnu.org/software/diffutils/)

General help using GNU software: [<https://www.gnu.org/gethelp/>](https://www.gnu.org/gethelp/)

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SEE ALSO

[diff\(1\)](#), [diff3\(1\)](#), [sdiff\(1\)](#)

The full documentation for `cmp` is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the `info` and `cmp` programs are properly installed at your site, the command

```
info cmp
```

should give you access to the complete manual.