

LN(1)

User Commands

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NAME

ln - make links between files

SYNOPSIS

ln [OPTION]... [-T] TARGET LINK_NAME

ln [OPTION]... TARGET

ln [OPTION]... TARGET... DIRECTORY

ln [OPTION]... -t DIRECTORY TARGET...

DESCRIPTION

In the 1st form, create a link to TARGET with the name LINK_NAME. In the 2nd form, create a link to TARGET in the current directory. In the 3rd and 4th forms, create links to each TARGET in DIRECTORY. Create hard links by default, symbolic links with --symbolic. By default, each destination (name of new link) should not already exist. When creating hard links, each TARGET must exist. Symbolic links can hold arbitrary text; if later resolved, a relative link is interpreted in relation to its parent directory.

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

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make a backup of each existing destination file

-b like --backup but does not accept an argument

-d, -F, --directory

allow the superuser to attempt to hard link directories (note: will probably fail due to system restrictions, even for the superuser)

-f, --force

remove existing destination files

-i, --interactive

prompt whether to remove destinations

-L, --logical

dereference TARGETs that are symbolic links

-n, --no-dereference

treat LINK_NAME as a normal file if it is a symbolic link to a directory

-P, --physical

make hard links directly to symbolic links

-r, --relative

with **-s**, create links relative to link location

-s, --symbolic

make symbolic links instead of hard links

-S, --suffix=SUFFIX

override the usual backup suffix

-t, --target-directory=DIRECTORY

specify the **DIRECTORY** in which to create the links

-T, --no-target-directory

treat **LINK_NAME** as a normal file always

-v, --verbose

print name of each linked file

--help display this help and exit

--version

output version information and exit

The backup suffix is '~', unless set with **--suffix** or **SIM?**

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`--backup` option or through the `VERSION_CONTROL` environment variable.

Here are the values:

`none, off`

never make backups (even if `--backup` is given)

`numbered, t`

make numbered backups

`existing, nil`

numbered if numbered backups exist, simple otherwise

`simple, never`

always make simple backups

Using `-s` ignores `-L` and `-P`. Otherwise, the last option specified controls behavior when a `TARGET` is a symbolic link, defaulting to `-P`.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: [<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>](https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/)

Report any translation bugs to [<https://translationproject.org/team/>](https://translationproject.org/team/)

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SEE ALSO

[link\(2\)](#), [symlink\(2\)](#)

Full documentation <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/ln>>
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) ln invocation'

GNU coreutils 9.4

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