



Linux Ubuntu 22.4.5 Manual Pages on command 'rename.ul.1'

\$ man rename.ul.1

RENAME(1) User Commands RENAME(1)

NAME

rename - rename files

SYNOPSIS

rename [options] expression replacement file...

DESCRIPTION

rename will rename the specified files by replacing the first occurrence of expression in their name by replacement.

OPTIONS

-s, --symlink

Do not rename a symlink but its target.

-v, --verbose

Show which files were renamed, if any.

-n, --no-act

Do not make any changes; add --verbose to see what would be made.

-o, --no-overwrite

Do not overwrite existing files. When --symlink is active, do not overwrite symlinks pointing to existing targets.

-i, --interactive

Ask before overwriting existing files.

-V, --version

Display version information and exit.

`-h, --help`

Display help text and exit.

EXAMPLES

Given the files `foo1`, ..., `foo9`, `foo10`, ..., `foo278`, the commands

```
rename foo foo00 foo?
```

```
rename foo foo0 foo??
```

will turn them into `foo001`, ..., `foo009`, `foo010`, ..., `foo278`. And

```
rename .htm .html *.htm
```

will fix the extension of your html files. Provide an empty string for shortening:

```
rename '_with_long_name' '' file_with_long_name.*
```

will remove the substring in the filenames.

WARNING

The `renaming` has no safeguards by default or without any one of the options `--no-overwrite`, `--interactive` or `--no-act`. If the user has permission to `rewrite` file names, the command will perform the action without any questions. For example, the result can be quite drastic when the command is run as root in the `/lib` directory. Always make a backup before running the command, unless you truly know what you are doing.

INTERACTIVE MODE

As most standard utilities `rename` can be used with a terminal device (tty in short) in `canonical` mode, where the line is buffered by the tty and you press `ENTER` to validate the user input. If you put your tty in `cbreak` mode however, `rename re?` requires only a single key press to answer the prompt. To set `cbreak` mode, run for example:

```
sh -c 'stty -icanon min 1; "$0" "$@"; stty icanon' rename -i from to files
```

EXIT STATUS

- 0 all requested rename operations were successful
- 1 all rename operations failed
- 2 some rename operations failed
- 4 nothing was renamed
- 64 unanticipated error occurred

SEE ALSO

`mv(1)`

AVAILABILITY

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

util-linux

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