

TAIL(1)

User Commands

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## NAME

**tail** - output the last part of files

## SYNOPSIS

**tail** [OPTION]... [FILE]...

## DESCRIPTION

Print the last 10 lines of each FILE to standard output. With more than one FILE, precede each with a header giving the file name.

With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

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

**-c, --bytes=[+]NUM**

output the last NUM bytes; or use -c +NUM to output starting with byte NUM of each file

**-f, --follow[={name|descriptor}]**

output appended data as the file grows;

**-F** same as **--follow=name --retry**

**-n, --lines=[+]NUM**

output the last NUM lines, instead of the last 10; or use **-n +NUM** to skip NUM-1 lines at the start

**--max-unchanged-stats=N**

with **--follow=name**, reopen a FILE which has not

changed size after N (default 5) iterations to see if it has been unlinked or renamed (this is the usual case of rotated log files); with **inotify**, this option is rarely useful

**--pid=PID**

with **-f**, terminate after process ID, PID dies

**-q, --quiet, --silent**

never output headers giving file names

**--retry**

keep trying to open a file if it is inaccessible

**-s, --sleep-interval=N**

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iterations; with `inotify` and `--pid=P`, check process `P` at least once every `N` seconds

`-v, --verbose`

always output headers giving file names

`-z, --zero-terminated`

line delimiter is `NUL`, not newline

`--help` display this help and exit

`--version`

output version information and exit

`NUM` may have a multiplier suffix: `b` 512, `kB` 1000, `K` 1024, `MB` 1000\*1000, `M` 1024\*1024, `GB` 1000\*1000\*1000, `G` 1024\*1024\*1024, and so on for `T`, `P`, `E`, `Z`, `Y`, `R`, `Q`. Binary prefixes can be used, too: `KiB=K`, `MiB=M`, and so on.

With `--follow (-f)`, `tail` defaults to following the file descriptor, which means that even if a tail'ed file is renamed, `tail` will continue to track its end. This default behavior is not desirable when you really want to track the actual name of the file, not the file descriptor (e.g., log rotation). Use `--follow=name` in that case. That causes

moval and creation.

## AUTHOR

Written by Paul Rubin, David MacKenzie, Ian Lance Taylor, and Jim Meyering.

## REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report any translation bugs to <<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

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## SEE ALSO

`head(1)`

Full documentation <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/tail>>

or available locally via: `info '(coreutils) tail invocation'`