



Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'cp.1' command

\$ man cp.1

CP(1) User Commands CP(1)

NAME

cp - copy files and directories

SYNOPSIS

cp [OPTION]... [-T] SOURCE DEST

cp [OPTION]... SOURCE... DIRECTORY

cp [OPTION]... -t DIRECTORY SOURCE...

DESCRIPTION

Copy SOURCE to DEST, or multiple SOURCE(s) to DIRECTORY.

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

-a, --archive

same as -dR --preserve=all

--attributes-only

don't copy the file data, just the attributes

--backup[=CONTROL]

make a backup of each existing destination file

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

--copy-contents

copy contents of special files when recursive

-d same as --no-dereference --preserve=links

-f, --force

if an existing destination file cannot be opened, remove it and

try again (this option is ignored when the -n option is also used)

-i, --interactive

prompt before overwrite (overrides a previous -n option)

-H follow command-line symbolic links in SOURCE

-l, --link

hard link files instead of copying

-L, --dereference

always follow symbolic links in SOURCE

-n, --no-clobber

do not overwrite an existing file (overrides a previous -i option)

-P, --no-dereference

never follow symbolic links in SOURCE

-p same as --preserve=mode,ownership,timestamps

--preserve[=ATTR_LIST]

preserve the specified attributes (default: mode,ownership,timestamps), if possible additional attributes: context, links, xattr, all

-c deprecated, same as --preserve=context

--no-preserve=ATTR_LIST

don't preserve the specified attributes

--parents

use full source file name under DIRECTORY

-R, -r, --recursive

copy directories recursively

--reflink[=WHEN]

control clone/CoW copies. See below

--remove-destination

remove each existing destination file before attempting to open it (contrast with --force)

--sparse=WHEN

control creation of sparse files. See below

`--strip-trailing-slashes`

remove any trailing slashes from each SOURCE argument

`-s, --symbolic-link`

make symbolic links instead of copying

`-S, --suffix=SUFFIX`

override the usual backup suffix

`-t, --target-directory=DIRECTORY`

copy all SOURCE arguments into DIRECTORY

`-T, --no-target-directory`

treat DEST as a normal file

`-u, --update`

copy only when the SOURCE file is newer than the destination

file or when the destination file is missing

`-v, --verbose`

explain what is being done

`-x, --one-file-system`

stay on this file system

`-Z` set SELinux security context of destination file to default type

`--context[=CTX]`

like `-Z`, or if CTX is specified then set the SELinux or SMACK

security context to CTX

`--help` display this help and exit

`--version`

output version information and exit

By default, sparse SOURCE files are detected by a crude heuristic and the corresponding DEST file is made sparse as well. That is the behavior selected by `--sparse=auto`. Specify `--sparse=always` to create a sparse DEST file whenever the SOURCE file contains a long enough sequence of zero bytes. Use `--sparse=never` to inhibit creation of sparse files.

When `--reflink[=always]` is specified, perform a lightweight copy, where the data blocks are copied only when modified. If this is not possible the copy fails, or if `--reflink=auto` is specified, fall back to a stan?

dard copy. Use `--reflink=never` to ensure a standard copy is performed.

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

`PLE_BACKUP_SUFFIX`. The version control method may be selected via the `--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

As a special case, `cp` makes a backup of `SOURCE` when the force and backup options are given and `SOURCE` and `DEST` are the same name for an existing, regular file.

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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

Full documentation [<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/cp>](https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/cp)

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