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

\$ man expand.1p

EXPAND(1P) POSIX Programmer's Manual EXPAND(1P)

PROLOG

This manual page is part of the POSIX Programmer's Manual. The Linux implementation of this interface may differ (consult the corresponding Linux manual page for details of Linux behavior), or the interface may not be implemented on Linux.

NAME

expand ? convert tabs to spaces

SYNOPSIS

expand [-t tablist] [file...]

DESCRIPTION

The expand utility shall write files or the standard input to the standard output with <tab> characters replaced with one or more <space> characters needed to pad to the next tab stop. Any <backspace> characters shall be copied to the output and cause the column position count for tab stop calculations to be decremented; the column position count shall not be decremented below zero.

OPTIONS

The expand utility shall conform to the Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Section 12.2, Utility Syntax Guidelines.

The following option shall be supported:

-t tablist

Specify the tab stops. The application shall ensure that the

argument `tablist` consists of either a single positive decimal integer or a list of tabstops. If a single number is given, `tabs` shall be set that number of column positions apart instead of the default 8.

If a list of tabstops is given, the application shall ensure that it consists of a list of two or more positive decimal integers, separated by `<blank>` or `<comma>` characters, in ascending order. The `<tab>` characters shall be set at those specific column positions. Each tab stop `N` shall be an integer value greater than zero, and the list is in strictly ascending order. This is taken to mean that, from the start of a line of output, tabbing to position `N` shall cause the next character output to be in the $(N+1)$ th column position on that line.

In the event of `expand` having to process a `<tab>` at a position beyond the last of those specified in a multiple tabstop list, the `<tab>` shall be replaced by a single `<space>` in the output.

OPERANDS

The following operand shall be supported:

`file` The pathname of a text file to be used as input.

STDIN

See the INPUT FILES section.

INPUT FILES

Input files shall be text files.

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

The following environment variables shall affect the execution of `expand`:

`LANG` Provide a default value for the internationalization variables that are unset or null. (See the Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Section 8.2, Internationalization Variables for the precedence of internationalization variables used to determine the values of locale categories.)

LC_ALL If set to a non-empty string value, override the values of all the other internationalization variables.

LC_CTYPE Determine the locale for the interpretation of sequences of bytes of text data as characters (for example, single-byte as opposed to multi-byte characters in arguments and input files), the processing of <tab> and <space> characters, and for the determination of the width in column positions each character would occupy on an output device.

LC_MESSAGES

Determine the locale that should be used to affect the format and contents of diagnostic messages written to standard error.

NLSPATH Determine the location of message catalogs for the processing of LC_MESSAGES.

ASYNCHRONOUS EVENTS

Default.

STDOUT

The standard output shall be equivalent to the input files with <tab> characters converted into the appropriate number of <space> characters.

STDERR

The standard error shall be used only for diagnostic messages.

OUTPUT FILES

None.

EXTENDED DESCRIPTION

None.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values shall be returned:

- 0 Successful completion
- >0 An error occurred.

CONSEQUENCES OF ERRORS

The `expand` utility shall terminate with an error message and non-zero exit status upon encountering difficulties accessing one of the file operands.

The following sections are informative.

APPLICATION USAGE

None.

EXAMPLES

None.

RATIONALE

The `expand` utility is useful for preprocessing text files (before sorting, looking at specific columns, and so on) that contain `<tab>` characters.

See the Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1-2017, Section 3.103, Column Position.

The `tablist` option-argument consists of integers in ascending order.

Utility Syntax Guideline 8 mandates that `expand` shall accept the integers (within the single argument) separated using either `<comma>` or `<blank>` characters.

Earlier versions of this standard allowed the following form in the

SYNOPSIS:

```
expand [-tabstop][-tab1,tab2,...,tabn][file ...]
```

This form is no longer specified by POSIX.1-2008 but may be present in some implementations.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

SEE ALSO

`tabs`, `unexpand`

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1-2017, Section 3.103, Column Position, Chapter 8, Environment Variables, Section 12.2, Utility Syntax Guidelines

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