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

$ man hardlink.1

HARDLINK(1) User Commands HARDLINK(1)

NAME

hardlink - link multiple copies of a file

SYNOPSIS

hardlink [options] [directory|file]...

DESCRIPTION

hardlink is a tool which replaces copies of a file with hardlinks,

therefore saving space.

OPTIONS

-h, --help

print quick usage details to the screen.

-v, --verbose

More verbose output. If specified once, every hardlinked file is

displayed, if specified twice, it also shows every comparison.

-q, --quiet

Quiet mode, don?t print anything.

-n, --dry-run

Do not act, just print what would happen.

-f, --respect-name

Only try to link files with the same (basename). It?s strongly

recommended to use long options rather than -f which is interpreted

in a different way by others hardlink implementations.

-p, --ignore-mode

Link/compare files even if their mode is different. This may be a bit unpredictable.

-o, --ignore-owner

Link/compare files even if their owner (user and group) is different. It is not predictable.

-t, --ignore-time

Link/compare files even if their time of modification is different. You almost always want this.

-X, --respect-xattrs

Only try to link files with the same extended attributes.

-m, --maximize

Among equal files, keep the file with the highest link count.

-M, --minimize

Among equal files, keep the file with the lowest link count.

-O, --keep-oldest

Among equal files, keep the oldest file (least recent modification time). By default, the newest file is kept. If --maximize or --minimize is specified, the link count has a higher precedence than the time of modification.

-x, --exclude regex

A regular expression which excludes files from being compared and linked.

-i, --include regex

A regular expression to include files. If the option --exclude has been given, this option re-includes files which would otherwise be excluded. If the option is used without --exclude, only files matched by the pattern are included.

-s, --minimum-size size

The minimum size to consider. By default this is 1, so empty files will not be linked. The size argument may be followed by the multiplicative suffixes KiB (=1024), MiB (=1024*1024), and so on for GiB, TiB, PiB, EiB, ZiB and YiB (the "iB" is optional, e.g., "K" has the same meaning as "KiB").

ARGUMENTS

hardlink takes one or more directories which will be searched for files to be linked.

BUGS

The original hardlink implementation uses the option -f to force hardlinks creation between filesystem. This very rarely usable feature is no more supported by the current hardlink.

hardlink assumes that the trees it operates on do not change during operation. If a tree does change, the result is undefined and potentially dangerous. For example, if a regular file is replaced by a device, hardlink may start reading from the device. If a component of a path is replaced by a symbolic link or file permissions change, security may be compromised. Do not run hardlink on a changing tree or on a tree controlled by another user.

AUTHOR

There are multiple hardlink implementations. The very first implementation is from Jakub Jelinek for Fedora distribution, this implementation has been used in util-linux between versions v2.34 to v2.36. The current implementations is based on Debian version from Julian Andres Klode.

REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at https://github.com/karelzak/util-linux/issues.

AVAILABILITY

The hardlink command is part of the util-linux package which can be downloaded from Linux Kernel Archive <https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>.