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

\$ man uudecode.1p

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

uudecode ? decode a binary file

SYNOPSIS

uudecode [-o outfile] [file]

DESCRIPTION

The uudecode utility shall read a file, or standard input if no file is specified, that includes data created by the uuencode utility. The uudecode utility shall scan the input file, searching for data compatible with one of the formats specified in uuencode, and attempt to create or overwrite the file described by the data (or overridden by the -o option). The pathname shall be contained in the data or specified by the -o option. The file access permission bits and contents for the file to be produced shall be contained in that data. The mode bits of the created file (other than standard output) shall be set from the file access permission bits contained in the data; that is, other attributes of the mode, including the file mode creation mask (see umask), shall not affect the file being produced. If either of the op

characters '+' and '-' (see `chmod`) are specified in symbolic mode, the initial mode on which those operations are based is unspecified.

If the pathname of the file resolves to an existing file and the user does not have write permission on that file, `uudecode` shall terminate with an error. If the pathname of the file resolves to an existing file and the user has write permission on that file, the existing file shall be overwritten and, if possible, the mode bits of the file (other than standard output) shall be set as described above; if the mode bits cannot be set, `uudecode` shall not treat this as an error.

If the input data was produced by `uuencode` on a system with a different number of bits per byte than on the target system, the results of `uudecode` are unspecified.

OPTIONS

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

The following option shall be supported by the implementation:

`-o outfile`

A pathname of a file that shall be used instead of any pathname contained in the input data. Specifying an `outfile` option-argument of `/dev/stdout` shall indicate standard output.

OPERANDS

The following operand shall be supported:

`file` The pathname of a file containing the output of `uuencode`.

STDIN

See the INPUT FILES section.

INPUT FILES

The input files shall be files containing the output of `uuencode`.

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

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

`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)

ables 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).

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

If the file data header encoded by uuencode is - or /dev/stdout, or the -o /dev/stdout option overrides the file data, the standard output shall be in the same format as the file originally encoded by uuencode. Otherwise, the standard output shall not be used.

STDERR

The standard error shall be used only for diagnostic messages.

OUTPUT FILES

The output file shall be in the same format as the file originally encoded by uuencode.

EXTENDED DESCRIPTION

None.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values shall be returned:

- 0 Successful completion.
- >0 An error occurred.

CONSEQUENCES OF ERRORS

Default.

The following sections are informative.

APPLICATION USAGE

The user who is invoking `uudecode` must have `write` permission on any file being created.

The output of `uuencode` is essentially an encoded bit stream that is not cognizant of byte boundaries. It is possible that a 9-bit byte target machine can process input from an 8-bit source, if it is aware of the requirement, but the reverse is unlikely to be satisfying. Of course, the only data that is meaningful for such a transfer between architectures is generally character data.

EXAMPLES

None.

RATIONALE

Input files are not necessarily text files, as stated by an early proposal. Although the `uuencode` output is a text file, that output could have been wrapped within another file or mail message that is not a text file.

The `-o` option is not historical practice, but was added at the request of WG15 so that the user could override the target pathname without having to edit the input data itself.

In early drafts, the `[-o outfile]` option-argument allowed the use of `-` to mean standard output. The symbol `-` has only been used previously in POSIX.1?2008 as a standard input indicator. The standard developers did not wish to overload the meaning of `-` in this manner. The `/dev/stdout` concept exists on most modern systems. The `/dev/stdout` syntax does not refer to a new special file. It is just a magic cookie to specify standard output.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

SEE ALSO

`chmod`, `umask`, `uuencode`

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Chapter 8, Environment

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