Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'wipefs.8' command

$ man wipefs.8

WIPEFS(8)   System Administration   WIPEFS(8)

NAME

    wipefs - wipe a signature from a device

SYNOPSIS

    wipefs [options] device...

    wipefs [--backup] -o offset device...

    wipefs [--backup] -a device...

DESCRIPTION

    wipefs can erase filesystem, raid or partition-table signatures (magic

    strings) from the specified device to make the signatures invisible for

    libblkid. wipefs does not erase the filesystem itself nor any other

    data from the device.

    When used without any options, wipefs lists all visible filesystems and

    the offsets of their basic signatures. The default output is subject to

    change. So whenever possible, you should avoid using default outputs in

    your scripts. Always explicitly define expected columns by using

    --output columns-list in environments where a stable output is

    required.

    wipefs calls the BLKRRPART ioctl when it has erased a partition-table

    signature to inform the kernel about the change. The ioctl is called as

    the last step and when all specified signatures from all specified

    devices are already erased. This feature can be used to wipe content on

    partitions devices as well as partition table on a disk device, for

example by wipefs -a /dev/sdc1 /dev/sdc2 /dev/sdc.

Note that some filesystems and some partition tables store more magic strings on the device (e.g., FAT, ZFS, GPT). The wipefs command (since v2.31) lists all the offset where a magic strings have been detected. When option -a is used, all magic strings that are visible for libblkid(3) are erased. In this case the wipefs scans the device again after each modification (erase) until no magic string is found.

Note that by default wipefs does not erase nested partition tables on non-whole disk devices. For this the option --force is required.

OPTIONS

-a, --all

Erase all available signatures. The set of erased signatures can be restricted with the -t option.

-b, --backup

Create a signature backup to the file $HOME/wipefs-<devname>-<offset>.bak. For more details see the EXAMPLE section.

-f, --force

Force erasure, even if the filesystem is mounted. This is required in order to erase a partition-table signature on a block device.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

-J, --json

Use JSON output format.

--lock[=mode]

Use exclusive BSD lock for device or file it operates. The optional argument mode can be yes, no (or 1 and 0) or nonblock. If the mode argument is omitted, it defaults to "yes". This option overwrites environment variable $LOCK_BLOCK_DEVICE. The default is not to use any lock at all, but it?s recommended to avoid collisions with udevd or other tools.

-i, --noheadings

Do not print a header line.

-O, --output list

    Specify which output columns to print. Use --help to get a list of all supported columns.

-n, --no-act

    Causes everything to be done except for the write(2) call.

-o, --offset offset

    Specify the location (in bytes) of the signature which should be erased from the device. The offset number may include a "0x" prefix; then the number will be interpreted as a hex value. It is possible to specify multiple -o options.

    The offset 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"), or the suffixes KB (=1000), MB (=1000*1000), and so on for GB, TB, PB, EB, ZB and YB.

-p, --parsable

    Print out in parsable instead of printable format. Encode all potentially unsafe characters of a string to the corresponding hex value prefixed by '\x'.

-q, --quiet

    Suppress any messages after a successful signature wipe.

-t, --types list

    Limit the set of printed or erased signatures. More than one type may be specified in a comma-separated list. The list or individual types can be prefixed with 'no' to specify the types on which no action should be taken. For more details see mount(8).

-V, --version

    Display version information and exit.

ENVIRONMENT

    LIBBLKID_DEBUG=all

    enables libblkid(3) debug output.

    LOCK_BLOCK_DEVICE=<mode>

    use exclusive BSD lock. The mode is "1" or "0". See --lock for more

details.

EXAMPLES

wipefs /dev/sda*

Prints information about sda and all partitions on sda.

wipefs --all --backup /dev/sdb

Erases all signatures from the device /dev/sdb and creates a

signature backup file ~/wipefs-sdb-<offset>.bak for each signature.

dd if=~/wipefs-sdb-0x00000438.bak of=/dev/sdb seek=$0x00000438 bs=1

conv=notrunc

Restores an ext2 signature from the backup file

~/wipefs-sdb-0x00000438.bak.

AUTHORS

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SEE ALSO

blkid(8), findfs(8)

REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at

https://github.com/karelzak/util-linux/issues.

AVAILABILITY

The wipefs 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/>.

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