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

**$ man xfs_metadump.8**

xfs_metadump(8)　　　　System Manager's Manual　　　　xfs_metadump(8)

NAME

　　xfs_metadump - copy XFS filesystem metadata to a file

SYNOPSIS

　　xfs_metadump  [ -aefFgow ] [ -m max_extents ] [ -l logdev ] source tar?

　　get

　　xfs_metadump -V

DESCRIPTION

　　xfs_metadump is a debugging tool that copies the metadata from  an  XFS

　　filesystem  to a file.  The source argument must be the pathname of the

　　device or file containing the XFS filesystem and  the  target  argument

　　specifies  the  destination file name.  If target is -, then the output

　　is sent to stdout. This allows the output to be redirected  to  another

　　program such as a compression application.

　　xfs_metadump  may  only be used to copy unmounted filesystems, or read-

　　only mounted filesystems.

　　xfs_metadump does not alter the source filesystem in any way. The  tar?

　　get image is a contiguous (non-sparse) file containing all the filesys?

　　tem's metadata and indexes to where the blocks were copied from.

　　By default, xfs_metadump obfuscates most file (regular file,  directory

　　and  symbolic  link)  names  and  extended attribute names to allow the

　　dumps to be sent without revealing confidential  information.  Extended

　　attribute  values are zeroed and no data is copied. The only exceptions

are file or attribute names that are 4 or less  characters  in  length.
Also  file  names  that  span  extents  (this  can  only occur with the
mkfs.xfs(8) options where -n size > -b size) are not obfuscated.  Names
between  5  and 8 characters in length inclusively are partially obfus?
cated.

xfs_metadump cannot obfuscate metadata in the filesystem log.  Log  re?
covery  of  an obfuscated metadump image may expose clear-text metadata
and/or cause filesystem corruption in the restored image.  It is recom?
mended  that  the  source filesystem first be mounted and unmounted, if
possible, to ensure that the log is clean.  A subsequent invocation  of
xfs_metadump  will  capture a clean log and obfuscate all metadata cor?
rectly.

If a metadump must be produced from a filesystem with a dirty  log,  it
is  recommended that obfuscation be turned off with -o option, if meta?
data such as filenames is not considered sensitive.  If obfuscation  is
required on a metadump with a dirty log, please inform the recipient of
the metadump image about this situation.

xfs_metadump should not be used for any purposes other than for  debug?
ging  and reporting filesystem problems. The most common usage scenario
for this tool is when xfs_repair(8) fails to repair a filesystem and  a
metadump image can be sent for analysis.

The  file generated by xfs_metadump can be restored to filesystem image
(minus the data) using the xfs_mdrestore(8) tool.

OPTIONS

-a    Copies entire metadata blocks.  Normally, xfs_metadump will zero
      any stale bytes interspersed with in-use metadata.  Use this op?
      tion to copy full metadata blocks, to provide more debugging in?
      formation  for a corrupted filesystem.  Note that the extra data
      will be unobfuscated.

-e    Stops the dump on a read error. Normally, it  will  ignore  read
      errors and copy all the metadata that is accessible.

-f    Specifies that the filesystem image to be processed is stored in
      a regular file (see the mkfs.xfs -d file option). This can  also

happen if an image copy of a filesystem has been made into an ordinary file with xfs_copy(8).

-F    Specifies that we want to continue even if the superblock magic is not correct. If the source is truly not an XFS filesystem, the resulting image will be useless, and xfs_metadump may crash.

-g    Shows dump progress. This is sent to stdout if the target is a file or to stderr if the target is stdout.

-l logdev

    For filesystems which use an external log, this specifies the device where the external log resides. The external log is not copied, only internal logs are copied.

-m    Set the maximum size of an allowed metadata extent. Extremely large metadata extents are likely to be corrupt, and will be skipped if they exceed this value. The default size is 2097151 blocks.

-o    Disables obfuscation of file names and extended attributes.

-w    Prints warnings of inconsistent metadata encountered to stderr. Bad metadata is still copied.

-V    Prints the version number and exits.

## DIAGNOSTICS

xfs_metadump returns an exit code of 0 if all readable metadata is suc? cessfully copied or 1 if a write error occurs or a read error occurs and the -e option used.

## NOTES

As xfs_metadump copies metadata only, it does not matter if the source filesystem has a realtime section or not. If the filesystem has an ex? ternal log, it is not copied. Internal logs are copied and any out? standing log transactions are not obfuscated if they contain names.

xfs_metadump is a shell wrapper around the xfs_db(8) metadump command.

## SEE ALSO

xfs_repair(8), xfs_mdrestore(8), xfs_freeze(8), xfs_db(8), xfs_copy(8), xfs(5)

## BUGS

Email bug reports to linux-xfs@vger.kernel.org.