



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'dpkg-split.1'

\$ man dpkg-split.1

dpkg-split(1) dpkg suite dpkg-split(1)

NAME

dpkg-split - Debian package archive split/join tool

SYNOPSIS

dpkg-split [option...] command

DESCRIPTION

dpkg-split splits Debian binary package files into smaller parts and reassembles them again, to support the storage of large package files on small media such as floppy disks.

It can be operated manually using the --split, --join and --info options.

It also has an automatic mode, invoked using the --auto option, where it maintains a queue of parts seen but not yet reassembled and reassembles a package file when it has seen all of its parts. The --listq and --discard options allow the management of the queue.

All splitting, joining and queueing operations produce informative messages on standard output; these may safely be ignored.

COMMANDS

-s, --split complete-archive [prefix]

Splits a single Debian binary package into several parts.

The parts are named prefix.NofM.deb where N is the part number, starting at 1, and M is the total number of parts (both in decimal).

If no prefix is supplied then the complete-archive filename is taken, including directory, with any trailing .deb removed.

-j, --join part...

Joins the parts of a package file together, reassembling the original file as it was

before it was split.

The part files given as arguments must be all the parts of exactly the same original binary file. Each part must occur exactly once in the argument list, though the parts to not need to be listed in order.

The parts must of course all have been generated with the same part size specified at split time, which means that they must usually have been generated by the same invocation of `dpkg-split --split`.

The parts' filenames are not significant for the reassembly process.

By default the output file is called `package_version_arch.deb`.

`-l, --info part...`

Prints information, in a human-readable format, about the part file(s) specified.

Arguments which are not binary package parts produce a message saying so instead (but still on standard output).

`-a, --auto -o complete-output part`

Automatically queue parts and reassemble a package if possible.

The part specified is examined, and compared with other parts of the same package (if any) in the queue of packages file parts.

If all parts of the package file of which part is a part are available then the package is reassembled and written to complete-output (which should not usually already exist, though this is not an error).

If not then the part is copied into the queue and complete-output is not created.

If part is not a split binary package part then `dpkg-split` will exit with status 1; if some other trouble occurs then it will exit with status 2.

The `--output` or `-o` option must be supplied when using `--auto`. (If this were not mandatory the calling program would not know what output file to expect.)

`-l, --listq`

Lists the contents of the queue of packages to be reassembled.

For each package file of which parts are in the queue the output gives the name of the package, the parts in the queue, and the total number of bytes stored in the queue.

`-d, --discard [package...]`

This discards parts from the queue of those waiting for the remaining parts of their packages.

If no package is specified then the queue is cleared completely; if any are specified

then only parts of the relevant package(s) are deleted.

-?, --help

Show the usage message and exit.

--version

Show the version and exit.

OPTIONS

--depotdir directory

Specifies an alternative directory for the queue of parts awaiting automatic reassembly.

The default is /var/lib/dpkg/parts.

--admindir directory

Set the administrative directory to directory (since dpkg 1.21.10). This is where the statoverride file is stored. Defaults to ?/var/lib/dpkg? if DPKG_ADMINDIR has not been set.

--root directory

Set the root directory to directory (since dpkg 1.21.10), which sets the installation directory to ?directory? and the administrative directory to ?directory/var/lib/dpkg? if DPKG_ROOT has not been set.

-S, --partsize kibibytes

Specifies the maximum part size when splitting, in kibibytes (1024 bytes). The default is 450 KiB.

-o, --output complete-output

Specifies the output file name for a reassembly.

This overrides the default for a manual reassembly (--join) and is mandatory for an automatic queue-or-reassemble (--auto).

-Q, --npquiet

When doing automatic queue-or-reassembly dpkg-split usually prints a message if it is given a part that is not a binary package part. This option suppresses this message, to allow programs such as dpkg to cope with both split and unsplit packages without producing spurious messages.

--msdos

Obsolete option without effect (since dpkg 1.23.0).

EXIT STATUS

0 The requested split, merge, or other command succeeded. --info commands count as

successful even if the files are not binary package parts.

- 1 Only occurs with --auto and indicates that the part file was not a binary package part.
- 2 Fatal or unrecoverable error due to invalid command-line usage, a file that looked like a package part file but was corrupted, or interactions with the system, such as accesses to the database, memory allocations, etc.

ENVIRONMENT

DPKG_ROOT

If set and --root option has not been specified, it will be used as the filesystem root directory (since dpkg 1.21.10).

DPKG_ADMINDIR

If set and the --admindir or --root options have not been specified, it will be used as the dpkg data directory (since dpkg 1.21.10).

DPKG_DEBUG

Sets the debug mask (since dpkg 1.21.10) from an octal value. The currently accepted flags are described in the dpkg --debug option, but not all these flags might have an effect on this program.

DPKG_COLORS

Sets the color mode (since dpkg 1.18.5). The currently accepted values are: auto (default), always and never.

DPKG_NLS

If set, it will be used to decide whether to activate Native Language Support, also known as internationalization (or i18n) support (since dpkg 1.22.7). The accepted values are: 0 and 1 (default).

SOURCE_DATE_EPOCH

If set, it will be used as the timestamp (as seconds since the epoch) in the deb-split(5)'s ar(5) container.

Since dpkg 1.18.11.

FILES

/var/lib/dpkg/parts

The default queue directory for part files awaiting automatic reassembly.

The filenames used in this directory are in a format internal to dpkg-split and are unlikely to be useful to other programs, and in any case the filename format should not be relied upon.

SECURITY

Examining or joining untrusted split package archives should be considered a security boundary, and any breakage of that boundary stemming from these operations should be considered a security vulnerability. Performing these operations over untrusted data as root is strongly discouraged.

Auto-accumulating and discarding split package parts are considered privileged operations that might allow root escalation. These operations must never be delegated to an untrusted user or be done on untrusted packages, as that might allow root access to the system.

Splitting package archives should only be performed over trusted data.

BUGS

Full details of the packages in the queue are impossible to get without digging into the queue directory yourself.

There is no easy way to test whether a file that may be a binary package part is one.

SEE ALSO

deb(5), deb-control(5), dpkg-deb(1), dpkg(1).

1.23.7

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dpkg-split(1)