



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'mcookie.1'

\$ man mcookie.1

MCOOKIE(1)

User Commands

MCOOKIE(1)

NAME

mcookie - generate magic cookies for xauth

SYNOPSIS

mcookie [options]

DESCRIPTION

mcookie generates a 128-bit random hexadecimal number for use with the X authority system.

Typical usage:

xauth add :0 . mcookie

The "random" number generated is actually the MD5 message digest of random information coming from one of the sources getrandom(2) system call, /dev/urandom, /dev/random, or the libc pseudo-random functions, in this preference order. See also the option --file.

OPTIONS

-f, --file file

Use this file as an additional source of randomness (for example /dev/urandom). When file is '-', characters are read from standard input.

-m, --max-size number

Read from file only this number of bytes. This option is meant to be used when reading additional randomness from a file or device.

The number 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.

-v, --verbose

Inform where randomness originated, with amount of entropy read from each source.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

-V, --version

Display version and exit.

FILES

/dev/urandom

/dev/random

BUGS

It is assumed that none of the randomness sources will block.

SEE ALSO

md5sum(1), X(7), xauth(1), rand(3)

REPORTING BUGS

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

AVAILABILITY

The mcookie 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/>>.

util-linux 2.41.3

2025-12-15

MCOOKIE(1)