



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

\$ man openvt.1

OPENVT(1) General Commands Manual OPENVT(1)

NAME

openvt - start a program on a new virtual terminal (VT).

SYNOPSIS

openvt [-c vtnumber] [OPTIONS] [--] command

DESCRIPTION

openvt will find the first available VT, and run on it the given command with the given command options. Standard input, output and error are directed to that terminal. The current search path (\$PATH) is used to find the requested command. If no command is specified then the environment variable \$SHELL is used.

OPTIONS

-c, --console=VTNUMBER

Use the given VT number and not the first available. Note you must have write access to the supplied VT for this to work.

-f, --force

Force opening a VT without checking whether it is already in use.

-e, --exec

Directly execute the given command, without forking. This option is meant for use in /etc/inittab. If you want to use this feature in another context, be aware that openvt has to be a session leader in order for -e to work. See setsid(2) or setsid(1) on how to achieve this.

-s, --switch

Switch to the new VT when starting the command. The VT of the new command will be

made the new current VT.

`-u, --user`

Figure out the owner of the current VT, and run login as that user. Suitable to be called by init. Shouldn't be used with `-c` or `-l`.

`-l, --login`

Make the command a login shell. A `-` is prepended to the name of the command to be executed.

`-v, --verbose`

Be a bit more verbose.

`-w, --wait`

wait for command to complete. If `-w` and `-s` are used together then `openvt` will switch back to the controlling terminal when the command completes.

`-V, --version`

print program version and exit.

`-h, --help`

show this text and exit.

`--` end of options to `openvt`.

NOTE

If `openvt` is compiled with a `getopt_long()` and you wish to set options to the command to be run, then you must supply the end of options `--` flag before the command.

EXAMPLES

`openvt` can be used to start a shell on the next free VT, by using the command:

```
openvt bash
```

To start the shell as a login shell, use:

```
openvt -l bash
```

To get a long listing you must supply the `--` separator:

```
openvt -- ls -l
```

HISTORY

Earlier, `openvt` was called `open`. It was written by Jon Tombs <jon@gtex02.us.es> or <jon@robots.ox.ac.uk>. The `-w` idea is from "sam".

SEE ALSO

`chvt(1)`, `deallocvt(1)`, `vlock(1)`, `login(1)`