



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'rename.ul.1'

\$ man rename.ul.1

RENAME(1)

User Commands

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NAME

rename - rename files

SYNOPSIS

rename [options] expression replacement file...

DESCRIPTION

rename will rename the specified files by replacing the first occurrence of expression in their name by replacement.

OPTIONS

-s, --symlink

Do not rename a symlink but change where it points.

-v, --verbose

Show which files were renamed, if any.

-n, --no-act

Do not make any changes; add --verbose to see what would be made.

-a, --all

Replace all occurrences of expression rather than only the first one.

-l, --last

Replace the last occurrence of expression rather than the first one.

-o, --no-overwrite

Do not overwrite existing files. When --symlink is active, do not overwrite symlinks pointing to existing targets.

-i, --interactive

Ask before overwriting existing files.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

-V, --version

Display version and exit.

WARNING

The renaming has no safeguards by default or without any one of the options `--no-overwrite`, `--interactive` or `--no-act`. If the user has permission to rewrite file names, the command will perform the action without any questions. For example, the result can be quite drastic when the command is run as root in the `/lib` directory. Always make a backup before running the command, unless you truly know what you are doing.

EDGE CASES

If the expression is empty, then by default replacement will be added to the start of the filename. With `--all`, replacement will be inserted in between every two characters of the filename, as well as at the start and end.

Normally, only the final path component of a filename is updated. (Or with `--symlink`, only the final path component of the link.) But if either expression or replacement contains a `/`, the full path is updated. This can cause a file to be moved between folders. Creating folders, and moving files between filesystems, is not supported.

INTERACTIVE MODE

As most standard utilities `rename` can be used with a terminal device (tty in short) in canonical mode, where the line is buffered by the tty and you press ENTER to validate the user input. If you put your tty in cbreak mode however, `rename` requires only a single key press to answer the prompt. To set cbreak mode, run for example:

```
sh -c 'stty -icanon min 1; "$@"; stty icanon' rename -i from to files
```

EXIT STATUS

0

all requested rename operations were successful

1

all rename operations failed

2

some rename operations failed

4

nothing was renamed

64

unanticipated error occurred

EXAMPLES

Given the files foo1, ..., foo9, foo10, ..., foo278, the commands

```
rename foo foo00 foo?
```

```
rename foo foo0 foo??
```

will turn them into foo001, ..., foo009, foo010, ..., foo278. And

```
rename .htm .html *.htm
```

will fix the extension of your html files. Provide an empty string for shortening:

```
rename '_with_long_name' '' file_with_long_name.*
```

will remove the substring in the filenames.

SEE ALSO

`mv(1)`

REPORTING BUGS

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

AVAILABILITY

The rename 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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