

NAME

test – Check file types and compare values.

SYNOPSIS

test [-h|--help] [-V|--version]

DESCRIPTION

Check file types and compare values.

OPTIONS

-h, --help

Print help

-V, --version

Print version

EXTRA

Exit with the status determined by EXPRESSION.

An omitted EXPRESSION defaults to false. Otherwise, EXPRESSION is true or false and sets exit status. It is one of:

(EXPRESSION)

EXPRESSION is true

! EXPRESSION

EXPRESSION is false

EXPRESSION1 -a EXPRESSION2

both EXPRESSION1 and EXPRESSION2 are true

EXPRESSION1 -o EXPRESSION2

either EXPRESSION1 or EXPRESSION2 is true

String operations:

-n STRING

the length of STRING is nonzero

STRING

equivalent to -n STRING

-z STRING

the length of STRING is zero

STRING1 = STRING2

the strings are equal

STRING1 != STRING2

the strings are not equal

STRING1 > STRING2

STRING1 is greater than STRING2 in the current locale

STRING1 < STRING2

STRING1 is less than STRING2 in the current locale

Integer comparisons:

INTEGER1 -eq INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is equal to INTEGER2

INTEGER1 -ge INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is greater than or equal to INTEGER2

INTEGER1 -gt INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is greater than INTEGER2

INTEGER1 -le INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is less than or equal to INTEGER2

INTEGER1 -lt INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is less than INTEGER2

INTEGER1 -ne INTEGER2
INTEGER1 is not equal to INTEGER2

File operations:

FILE1 -ef FILE2
FILE1 and FILE2 have the same device and inode numbers

FILE1 -nt FILE2
FILE1 is newer (modification date) than FILE2

FILE1 -ot FILE2
FILE1 is older than FILE2

-b FILE
FILE exists and is block special

-c FILE
FILE exists and is character special

-d FILE
FILE exists and is a directory

-e FILE
FILE exists

-f FILE
FILE exists and is a regular file

-g FILE
FILE exists and is set-group-ID

-G FILE
FILE exists and is owned by the effective group ID

-h FILE
FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as -L)

- k FILE**
FILE exists and has its sticky bit set
- L FILE**
FILE exists and is a symbolic link (same as **-h**)
- N FILE**
FILE exists and has been modified since it was last read
- O FILE**
FILE exists and is owned by the effective user ID
- p FILE**
FILE exists and is a named pipe
- r FILE**
FILE exists and read permission is granted
- s FILE**
FILE exists and has a size greater than zero
- S FILE**
FILE exists and is a socket
- t FD**
file descriptor FD is opened on a terminal
- u FILE**
FILE exists and its set-user-ID bit is set
- w FILE**
FILE exists and write permission is granted
- x FILE**
FILE exists and execute (or search) permission is granted

Except for **-h** and **-L**, all FILE-related tests dereference (follow) symbolic links. Beware that parentheses need to be escaped (e.g., by backslashes) for shells. INTEGER may also be **-l STRING**, which evaluates to the length of STRING.

NOTE: Binary **-a** and **-o** are inherently ambiguous. Use `test EXPR1 && test EXPR2` or `test EXPR1 || test EXPR2` instead.

NOTE: `[]` honors the `--help` and `--version` options, but `test` does not. `test` treats each of those as it treats any other nonempty STRING.

NOTE: your shell may have its own version of `test` and/or `[]`, which usually supersedes the version described here. Please refer to your shell's documentation for details about the options it supports.

VERSION

v(utils coreutils) 0.8.0