

NAME

touch – change file timestamps

SYNOPSIS

touch [*OPTION*]... *FILE*...

DESCRIPTION

Update the access and modification times of each *FILE* to the current time.

A *FILE* argument that does not exist is created empty, unless **-c** or **-h** is supplied.

A *FILE* argument string of **-** is handled specially and causes touch to change the times of the file associated with standard output.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

-a change only the access time

-c, --no-create
do not create any files

-d, --date=STRING
parse *STRING* and use it instead of current time

-f (ignored)

-h, --no-dereference
affect each symbolic link instead of any referenced file (useful only on systems that can change the timestamps of a symlink)

-m change only the modification time

-r, --reference=FILE
use this file's times instead of current time

-t STAMP
use [[CC]YY]MMDDhhmm[.ss] instead of current time

--time=WORD
change the specified time: *WORD* is access, atime, or use: equivalent to **-a** *WORD* is modify or mtime: equivalent to **-m**

--help display this help and exit

--version
output version information and exit

Note that the **-d** and **-t** options accept different time–date formats.

DATE STRING

The **--date=STRING** is a mostly free format human readable date string such as "Sun, 29 Feb 2004 16:21:42 -0800" or "2004-02-29 16:21:42" or even "next Thursday". A date string may contain items indicating calendar date, time of day, time zone, day of week, relative time, relative date, and numbers. An empty string indicates the beginning of the day. The date string format is more complex than is easily documented here but is fully described in the info documentation.

AUTHOR

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>>

Report any translation bugs to <<https://translationproject.org/team/>>

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permitted by law.

SEE ALSO

Full documentation <<https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/touch>>
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) touch invocation'