NAME

copy – file/directory copy utility

USAGE

copy *[options] file1 file2*

copy *[options] file ... directory*

SYNOPSIS

Copy is an extension of the basic POSIX **cp** utility. It copies files, preserving their modification date.

DESCRIPTION

Copy copies *file1* onto *file2*. It preserves the existing mode of *file2*. If *file2* did not exist, **copy** uses the mode of the source file.

Copy can also be used to copy one or more files into *directory*, without changing their original filenames. It refuses to copy a file onto itself.

Except for symbolic links, *file2* will be set to the same modification date as *file1*. The owner of the file will be the same as the owner of the process which invokes **copy**. Unless the "**–i**" option is used, **copy** ignores permissions of the (previous) destination file.

OPTIONS

Copy recognizes options similar to those of **cp**, but with extensions:

–a include dot-files (names beginning with '.'). This is the default. Use this option to override **–z**, e.g., in a script which presets that option.

–d all names given are treated as the destination; the source names are obtained by taking the leaves and looking for them in the current working directory. This is provided to simplify installation of files in a directory.

–f forces copy into protected directories by temporarily changing the destination protection.

–i prompt with the name of the file whenever the copy will cause an old file to be overwritten. A "y" answer causes copy to continue. Any other answer prevents it from overwriting the file.

–l copy the files which symbolic links point to, rather than copying the links themselves.

–m permits you to merge directories. If the source and destination are directories, **copy** will normally create a new directory under the destination with the same leaf name as the source. For example,

```
copy /local/bin /usr/local/bin
```

will create and copy into the directory "/usr/local/bin/bin" if "/usr/local/bin" exists. Use the "**–m**" option to copy onto an existing directory.

–n disables the actual creation or modification of files, and (depending on the level of verboseness) shows the effect which the **copy** command would have.

–p attempt to preserve file ownership.

–s enables the set-uid and set-gid file modes in the target.

–u copies files only if their size or modification date differs, and links only if the link-text differs.

–U copies only files that are newer than the destination, or that do not exist in the destination.

–v verbose mode directs **copy** to print the names (to standard error) of the files which it copies.

–z omit dot-files (names beginning with '.').

–S (Linux only) tells **copy** that the source is on a filesystem using local time, and that appropriate adjustments must be made in the timestamp computation.

–D (Linux only) tells **copy** that the destination is on a filesystem using local time, and that appropriate adjustments must be made in the timestamp computation.

OPERATIONS

Copy is used exactly as one would use **cp** (for file-copying). Directory copying is performed without the "**−r**" option of **cp**.

Copy recognizes the C-shell "~" (tilde) to denote the home directory of POSIX users.

If more than two arguments are given, or if the destination ends with "/", **copy** assumes that the user wants to write into an existing directory rather than create a new one.

ENVIRONMENT

Copy is a C-language program which runs in a POSIX environment.

FILES

Copy is a single binary file, "copy".

ANTICIPATED CHANGES

Copy does not currently know how to handle special files (e.g., **/dev/tty**).

SEE ALSO

cp (1)

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