

NAME

copy – file/directory copy utility

SYNOPSIS

copy [*options*] *file1 file2*

copy [*options*] *file ... directory*

DESCRIPTION

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

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 verbosity) 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**).

AUTHORS

Thomas E. Dickey <dickey@invisible-island.net>

SEE ALSO

cp (1)