

PASTE(VI)

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NAME

`paste` — merge the same lines of all files

SYNOPSIS

`paste [-dc] file1 file2 ...`

DESCRIPTION

`paste` concatenates corresponding lines of the given input files *file1*, *file2* etc. It treats each file as a column or columns of a table and pastes them together horizontally. If you will, it is the counterpart of `cat(1)`, which concatenates vertically, i.e. one file after the other. Output is to the standard output, so it can be used as the start of a pipe.

The new-line characters of each but the last file are replaced by a *tab* character. Thus, exhausted files contribute only a *tab* character to the line. The *tab* character can be replaced by an arbitrary character *c* with the `-dc` option. The character *c* has to be quoted, if it has special meaning to the shell, e. g. `;"` or `""` (blank).

If any of the named input files is denoted by `'-'`, `paste` will read a line from the standard input (for each file designated as `'-'`) before outputting the resulting complete line (There is no prompting). In that way, `paste` can be used as a filter. The length of the resulting line is restricted to 256 characters.

SEE ALSO

`grep(1)`, `cut(VI)`

DIAGNOSTICS

"*too many files*": no more than 12 input files may be specified.

BUGS