

NAME

`tail` — deliver the last part of a file

SYNOPSIS

`tail [±[number][lbc] [f]] [file]`

DESCRIPTION

Tail copies the named file to the standard output beginning at a designated place. If no file is named, the standard input is used.

Copying begins at distance $+number$ from the beginning, or $-number$ from the end of the input (if *number* is null, the value 10 is assumed). *Number* is counted in units of lines, blocks, or characters, according to the appended option **l**, **b**, or **c**. When no units are specified, counting is by lines.

With the **f** (“follow”) option, if the input file is not a pipe, the program will not terminate after the line of the input file has been copied, but will enter an endless loop, wherein it sleeps for a second and then attempts to read and copy further records from the input file. Thus it may be used to monitor the growth of a file that is being written by some other, asynchronous process. For example, the command:

```
tail -f fred
```

will print the last ten lines of the file *fred*, followed by any lines that are appended to *fred* between the time *tail* is initiated and killed.

SEE ALSO

`dd(1)`.

BUGS

Tails relative to the end of the file are treasured up in a buffer, and thus are limited in length. Various kinds of anomalous behavior may happen with character special files.