

NAME

mimetype – Determine file type

SYNOPSIS

mimetype [options] [-] files

DESCRIPTION

This script tries to determine the mime type of a file using the Shared MIME-info database. It is intended as a kind of *file (1)* work-alike, but uses mimetypes instead of descriptions.

If one symlinks the *file* command to *mimetype* it will behave a little more compatible, see “*—file-compat*”. Commandline options to specify alternative magic files are not implemented the same because of the conflicting data formats. Also the wording of the descriptions will differ.

For naming switches I followed the manpage of *file (1)* version 4.02 when possible. They seem to differ completely from the spec in the ‘utilities’ chapter of IEEE Std 1003.1–2001 (POSIX).

OPTIONS**–a, --all**

Show output of all rules that match the file.

TODO: this method now just returns one match for each method (globs, magic, etc.).

–b, --brief

Do not prepend filenames to output lines (brief mode).

–database=mimedir:mimedir...

Force the program to look in these directories for the shared mime-info database. The directories specified by the basedir specification are ignored.

–d, --describe

Print file descriptions instead of mime types, this is the default when using “*—file-compat*”.

–D, --debug

Print debug information about how the mimetype was determined.

–f namefile, --namefile=namefile

Read the names of the files to be examined from the file ‘namefile’ (one per line) before the argument list.

–file-compat

Make mimetype behave a little more *file (1)* compatible. This is turned on automatically when you call mimetype by a link called ‘file’.

A single ‘-’ won’t be considered a separator between options and filenames anymore, but becomes identical to “*–stdin*”. (You can still use ‘--’ as separator, but that is not backward compatible with the original file command.) Also the default becomes to print descriptions instead of mimetypes.

–F string, --separator=string

Use string as custom separator between the file name and its mimetype or description, defaults to ‘:’.

–h, --help**–u, --usage**

Print a help message and exits.

–i, --mimetype

Use mime types, opposite to “*–describe*”, this is the default when *_not_* using “*–file-compat*”.

–L, --dereference

Follow symbolic links.

–l code, --language=code

The language attribute specifies a two letter language code, this makes descriptions being outputted in the specified language.

-M, --magic-only

Do not check for extensions, globs or inode type, only look at the content of the file. This is particularly useful if for some reason you don't trust the name or the extension a file has.

-N, --noalign

Do not align output fields.

--output-format

If you want an alternative output format, you can specify a format string containing the following escapes:

```
%f for the filename
%d description
%m mime type
```

Alignment is not available when using this, you need to post-process the output to do that.

--stdin

Determine type of content from STDIN, less powerful than normal file checking because it only uses magic typing. This will happen also if the STDIN filehandle is a pipe.

To use this option IO::Scalar needs to be installed.

-v, --version

Print the version of the program and exit.

ENVIRONMENT

XDG_DATA_HOME

XDG_DATA_DIRS

These variables can list base directories to search for data files. The shared mime-info will be expected in the "mime" sub directory of one of these directories. If these are not set, there will be searched for the following directories:

```
$HOME/.local/share/mime
/usr/local/share/mime
/usr/share/mime
```

See also the "XDG Base Directory Specification" <<http://freedesktop.org/Standards/basedir-spec>>

FILES

The base dir for all data files is determined by two environment variables, see "ENVIRONMENT".

BASE/mime/packages/SOURCE.xml

All other files are compiled from these source files. To re-compile them use ***update-mime-database (1)***.

BASE/mime/globs

Compiled information about globs.

BASE/mime/magic

Compiled information about magic numbers.

BASE/mime/MEDIA/SUBTYPE.xml

Descriptions of a mimetype in multiple languages, used for the "--describe" switch.

DIAGNOSTICS

If a file has an empty mimetype or an empty description, most probably the file doesn't exist and the given name doesn't match any globs. An empty description can also mean that there is no description available in the language you specified.

The program exits with a non-zero exit value if either the commandline arguments failed, a module it depends on wasn't found or the shared mime-info database wasn't accessible. See `File::MimeInfo` for more details.

TODO

The '--all' switch doesn't really show all matches, but only one per mime-typing method. This needs to be implemented in the modules first.

BUGS

If you find bugs, please file them in our Github issue tracker at <https://github.com/mbeijen/File-MimeInfo/issues>.

mimetype doesn't provide a switch for looking inside compressed files because it seems to me that this can only be done by un-compressing the file, something that defeats the purpose. On the other hand the option should exist for strict compatibility with *file* (1). Possibly a subclass should be made for this one day.

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SEE ALSO

file (1), *update-mime-database* (1), *File::MimeInfo* (3),
<<http://freedesktop.org/Software/shared-mime-info>>