NAME

cp − copy files and directories

SYNOPSIS

cp [*OPTION*]... [*-T*] *SOURCE DEST*
cp [*OPTION*]... *SOURCE*... *DIRECTORY*
cp [*OPTION*]... *-t DIRECTORY SOURCE*...

DESCRIPTION

Copy SOURCE to DEST, or multiple SOURCE(s) to DIRECTORY.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

−a, **−−archive**
> same as **−dR −−preserve=**_all_

−−attributes−only
> don't copy the file data, just the attributes

−−backup[=*CONTROL*]
> make a backup of each existing destination file

−b   like **−−backup** but does not accept an argument

−−copy−contents
> copy contents of special files when recursive

−d   same as **−−no−dereference −−preserve=**_links_

−f, **−−force**
> if an existing destination file cannot be opened, remove it and try again (this option is ignored
> when the **−n** option is also used)

−i, **−−interactive**
> prompt before overwrite (overrides a previous **−n** option)

−H   follow command−line symbolic links in SOURCE

−l, **−−link**
> hard link files instead of copying

−L, **−−dereference**
> always follow symbolic links in SOURCE

−n, **−−no−clobber**
> do not overwrite an existing file (overrides a previous **−i** option)

−P, **−−no−dereference**
> never follow symbolic links in SOURCE

−p   same as **−−preserve=**_mode_,ownership,timestamps

−−preserve[=*ATTR_LIST*]
> preserve the specified attributes (default: mode,ownership,timestamps), if possible additional at-
> tributes: context, links, xattr, all

−−no−preserve=_ATTR_LIST_
> don't preserve the specified attributes

−−parents
> use full source file name under DIRECTORY

−R, **−r**, **−−recursive**
> copy directories recursively

−−reflink[=*WHEN*]
> control clone/CoW copies. See below

−−remove−destination
> remove each existing destination file before attempting to open it (contrast with **−−force**)

−−sparse=*WHEN*
> control creation of sparse files. See below

−−strip−trailing−slashes
> remove any trailing slashes from each SOURCE argument

−s, **−−symbolic−link**
> make symbolic links instead of copying

−S, **−−suffix**=*SUFFIX*
> override the usual backup suffix

−t, **−−target−directory**=*DIRECTORY*
> copy all SOURCE arguments into DIRECTORY

−T, **−−no−target−directory**
> treat DEST as a normal file

−u, **−−update**
> copy only when the SOURCE file is newer than the destination file or when the destination file is missing

−v, **−−verbose**
> explain what is being done

−x, **−−one−file−system**
> stay on this file system

−Z   set SELinux security context of destination file to default type

−−context[=*CTX*]
> like **−Z**, or if CTX is specified then set the SELinux or SMACK security context to CTX

−−help   display this help and exit

−−version
> output version information and exit

By default, sparse SOURCE files are detected by a crude heuristic and the corresponding DEST file is made sparse as well. That is the behavior selected by **−−sparse**=*auto*. Specify **−−sparse**=*always* to create a sparse DEST file whenever the SOURCE file contains a long enough sequence of zero bytes. Use **−−sparse**=*never* to inhibit creation of sparse files.

When **−−reflink**[=*always*] is specified, perform a lightweight copy, where the data blocks are copied only when modified. If this is not possible the copy fails, or if **−−reflink**=*auto* is specified, fall back to a standard copy. Use **−−reflink**=*never* to ensure a standard copy is performed.

The backup suffix is '˜', unless set with **−−suffix** or SIMPLE_BACKUP_SUFFIX. The version control method may be selected via the **−−backup** option or through the VERSION_CONTROL environment variable. Here are the values:

none, off
> never make backups (even if **−−backup** is given)

numbered, t
> make numbered backups

existing, nil
> numbered if numbered backups exist, simple otherwise

simple, never
> always make simple backups

As a special case, cp makes a backup of SOURCE when the force and backup options are given and

SOURCE and DEST are the same name for an existing, regular file.

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REPORTING BUGS

GNU coreutils online help: <https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/>
Report cp translation bugs to <https://translationproject.org/team/>

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SEE ALSO

Full documentation at: <https://www.gnu.org/software/coreutils/cp>
or available locally via: info '(coreutils) cp invocation'