

NAME

metaflac — program to list, add, remove, or edit metadata in one or more FLAC files.

SYNOPSIS

metaflac [*options*] [*operations*] *FLACfile*

DESCRIPTION

Use **metaflac** to list, add, remove, or edit metadata in one or more FLAC files. You may perform one major operation, or many shorthand operations at a time.

OPTIONS**--preserve-modtime**

Preserve the original modification time in spite of edits.

--with-filename

Prefix each output line with the FLAC file name (the default if more than one FLAC file is specified).

--no-filename

Do not prefix each output line with the FLAC file name (the default if only one FLAC file is specified).

--no-utf8-convert

Do not convert tags from UTF-8 to local charset, or vice versa. This is useful for scripts, and setting tags in situations where the locale is wrong.

--dont-use-padding

By default metaflac tries to use padding where possible to avoid rewriting the entire file if the metadata size changes. Use this option to tell metaflac to not take advantage of padding this way.

SHORTHAND OPERATIONS**--show-md5sum**

Show the MD5 signature from the STREAMINFO block.

--show-min-blocksize

Show the minimum block size from the STREAMINFO block.

--show-max-blocksize

Show the maximum block size from the STREAMINFO block.

--show-min-framesize

Show the minimum frame size from the STREAMINFO block.

--show-max-framesize

Show the maximum frame size from the STREAMINFO block.

--show-sample-rate

Show the sample rate from the STREAMINFO block.

--show-channels

Show the number of channels from the STREAMINFO block.

--show-bps

Show the # of bits per sample from the STREAMINFO block.

--show-total-samples

Show the total # of samples from the STREAMINFO block.

--show-vendor-tag

Show the vendor string from the VORBIS_COMMENT block.

--show-tag=name

Show all tags where the field name matches 'name'.

--remove-tag=name

Remove all tags whose field name is 'name'.

--remove-first-tag=name

Remove first tag whose field name is 'name'.

--remove-all-tags

Remove all tags, leaving only the vendor string.

--set-tag=field

Add a tag. The field must comply with the Vorbis comment spec, of the form "NAME=VALUE". If there is currently no tag block, one will be created.

--set-tag-from-file=field

Like --set-tag, except the VALUE is a filename whose contents will be read verbatim to set the tag value. Unless --no-utf8-convert is specified, the contents will be converted to UTF-8 from the local charset. This can be used to store a cuesheet in a tag (e.g. --set-tag-from-file="CUESHEET=image.cue"). Do not try to store binary data in tag fields! Use APPLICATION blocks for that.

--import-tags-from=file

Import tags from a file. Use '-' for stdin. Each line should be of the form NAME=VALUE. Multi-line comments are currently not supported. Specify --remove-all-tags and/or --no-utf8-convert before --import-tags-from if necessary. If FILE is '-' (stdin), only one FLAC file may be specified.

--export-tags-to=file

Export tags to a file. Use '-' for stdout. Each line will be of the form NAME=VALUE. Specify --no-utf8-convert if necessary.

--import-cuesheet-from=file

Import a cuesheet from a file. Use '-' for stdin. Only one FLAC file may be specified. A seekpoint will be added for each index point in the cuesheet to the SEEKTABLE unless --no-cued-seekpoints is specified.

--export-cuesheet-to=file

Export CUESHEET block to a cuesheet file, suitable for use by CD authoring software. Use '-' for stdout. Only one FLAC file may be specified on the command line.

--import-picture-from={FILENAME|SPECIFICATION}

Import a picture and store it in a PICTURE metadata block. More than one --import-picture-from command can be specified. Either a filename for the picture file or a more complete specification form can be used. The SPECIFICATION is a string whose parts are separated by | (pipe) characters. Some parts may be left empty to invoke default values. FILENAME is just shorthand for "||||FILENAME". The format of SPECIFICATION is

[TYPE][MIME-TYPE][DESCRIPTION][WIDTHxHEIGHTxDEPTH[/COLORS]][FILE]

TYPE is optional; it is a number from one of:

- 0: Other
- 1: 32x32 pixels 'file icon' (PNG only)
- 2: Other file icon
- 3: Cover (front)
- 4: Cover (back)
- 5: Leaflet page
- 6: Media (e.g. label side of CD)
- 7: Lead artist/lead performer/soloist
- 8: Artist/performer
- 9: Conductor
- 10: Band/Orchestra
- 11: Composer
- 12: Lyricist/text writer
- 13: Recording Location
- 14: During recording
- 15: During performance
- 16: Movie/video screen capture
- 17: A bright coloured fish
- 18: Illustration
- 19: Band/artist logotype
- 20: Publisher/Studio logotype

The default is 3 (front cover). There may only be one picture each of type 1 and 2 in a file.

MIME-TYPE is optional; if left blank, it will be detected from the file. For best compatibility with players, use pictures with MIME type image/jpeg or image/png. The MIME type can also be --> to mean that FILE is actually a URL to an image, though this use is discouraged.

DESCRIPTION is optional; the default is an empty string.

The next part specifies the resolution and color information. If the MIME-TYPE is image/jpeg, image/png, or image/gif, you can usually leave this empty and they can be detected from the file. Otherwise, you must specify the width in pixels, height in pixels, and color depth in bits-per-pixel. If the image has indexed colors you should also specify the number of colors used. When manually specified, it is not checked against the file for accuracy.

FILE is the path to the picture file to be imported, or the URL if MIME type is `-->`

For example, `"|image/jpeg||../cover.jpg"` will embed the JPEG file at `../cover.jpg`, defaulting to type 3 (front cover) and an empty description. The resolution and color info will be retrieved from the file itself.

The specification `"4|-->|CD|320x300x24/173|http://blah.blah/backcover.tiff"` will embed the given URL, with type 4 (back cover), description "CD", and a manually specified resolution of 320x300, 24 bits-per-pixel, and 173 colors. The file at the URL will not be fetched; the URL itself is stored in the PICTURE metadata block.

--export-picture-to=file

Export PICTURE block to a file. Use `'-'` for stdout. Only one FLAC file may be specified on the command line. The first PICTURE block will be exported unless `--export-picture-to` is preceded by a `--block-number=#` option to specify the exact metadata block to extract. Note that the block number is the one shown by `--list`.

--add-replay-gain

Calculates the title and album gains/peaks of the given FLAC files as if all the files were part of one album, then stores them as FLAC tags. The tags are the same as those used by `vorbisgain`. Existing `ReplayGain` tags will be replaced. If only one FLAC file is given, the album and title gains will be the same. Since this operation requires two passes, it is always executed last, after all other operations have been completed and written to disk. All FLAC files specified must have the same resolution, sample rate, and number of channels. The sample rate must be one of 8, 11.025, 12, 16, 18.9, 22.05, 24, 28, 32, 37.8, 44.1, 48, 56, 64, 88.2, 96, 112, 128, 144, 176.4, or 192kHz.

--scan-replay-gain

Like `--add-replay-gain`, but only analyzes the files rather than writing them to the tags.

--remove-replay-gain

Removes the `ReplayGain` tags.

--add-seekpoint={#|X|#x|#s}

Add seek points to a `SEEKTABLE` block. Using `#`, a seek point at that sample number is added. Using `X`, a placeholder point is added at the end of a the table. Using `#x`, `#` evenly spaced seek points will be added, the first being at sample 0. Using `#s`, a seekpoint will be added every `#` seconds (`#` does not have to be a whole number; it can be, for example, 9.5, meaning a seekpoint every 9.5 seconds). If no `SEEKTABLE` block exists, one will be created. If one already exists, points will be added to the existing table, and any duplicates will be turned into placeholder points. You may use many `--add-seekpoint` options; the resulting `SEEKTABLE` will be the unique-ified union of all such values. Example: `--add-seekpoint=100x --add-seekpoint=3.5s` will add 100 evenly spaced seekpoints and a seekpoint every 3.5 seconds.

--add-padding=length

Add a padding block of the given length (in bytes). The overall length of the new block will be `4 + length`; the extra 4 bytes is for the metadata block header.

MAJOR OPERATIONS

--list List the contents of one or more metadata blocks to stdout. By default, all metadata blocks are listed in text format. Use the following options to change this behavior:

--block-number=#[,#[...]]

An optional comma-separated list of block numbers to display. The first block, the STREAMINFO block, is block 0.

--block-type=type[,type[...]]

--except-block-type=type[,type[...]]

An optional comma-separated list of block types to be included or ignored with this option. Use only one of **--block-type** or **--except-block-type**. The valid block types are: STREAMINFO, PADDING, APPLICATION, SEEKTABLE, VORBIS_COMMENT, PICTURE. You may narrow down the types of APPLICATION blocks displayed as follows:

APPLICATION:abcd The APPLICATION block(s) whose textual representation of the 4-byte ID is "abcd" APPLICATION:0XXXXXXXXX The APPLICATION block(s) whose hexadecimal big-endian representation of the 4-byte ID is "0XXXXXXXXX". For the example "abcd" above the hexadecimal equivalent is 0x61626364

Note:

if both **--block-number** and **--[except-]block-type** are specified, the result is the logical AND of both arguments.

--application-data-format=hexdump|text

If the application block you are displaying contains binary data but your **--data-format=text**, you can display a hex dump of the application data contents instead using **--application-data-format=hexdump**.

--remove Remove one or more metadata blocks from the metadata. Unless **--dont-use-padding** is specified, the blocks will be replaced with padding. You may not remove the STREAMINFO block.

--block-number=#[,#[...]]

--block-type=type[,type[...]]

--except-block-type=type[,type[...]]

See **--list** above for usage.

Note:

if both **--block-number** and **--[except-]block-type** are specified, the result is the logical AND of both arguments.

--remove-all

Remove all metadata blocks (except the STREAMINFO block) from the metadata. Unless **--dont-use-padding** is specified, the blocks will be replaced with padding.

--merge-padding

Merge adjacent PADDING blocks into single blocks.

--sort-padding

Move all PADDING blocks to the end of the metadata and merge them into a single block.

SEE ALSO

flac(1).