

NAME

uuidgen – create a new UUID value

SYNOPSIS

uuidgen [options]

DESCRIPTION

The **uuidgen** program creates (and prints) a new universally unique identifier (UUID) using the **libuuid**(3) library. The new UUID can reasonably be considered unique among all UUIDs created on the local system, and among UUIDs created on other systems in the past and in the future.

There are three types of UUIDs which **uuidgen** can generate: time-based UUIDs, random-based UUIDs, and hash-based UUIDs. By default **uuidgen** will generate a random-based UUID if a high-quality random number generator is present. Otherwise, it will choose a time-based UUID. It is possible to force the generation of one of these first two UUID types by using the **--random** or **--time** options.

The third type of UUID is generated with the **--md5** or **--sha1** options, followed by **--namespace namespace** and **--name name**. The *namespace* may either be a well-known UUID, or else an alias to one of the well-known UUIDs defined in RFC 4122, that is **@dns**, **@url**, **@oid**, or **@x500**. The *name* is an arbitrary string value. The generated UUID is the digest of the concatenation of the namespace UUID and the name value, hashed with the MD5 or SHA1 algorithms. It is, therefore, a predictable value which may be useful when UUIDs are being used as handles or nonces for more complex values or values which shouldn't be disclosed directly. See the RFC for more information.

OPTIONS

-r, --random

Generate a random-based UUID. This method creates a UUID consisting mostly of random bits. It requires that the operating system have a high quality random number generator, such as */dev/random*.

-t, --time

Generate a time-based UUID. This method creates a UUID based on the system clock plus the system's ethernet hardware address, if present.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

-V, --version

Display version information and exit.

-m, --md5

Use MD5 as the hash algorithm.

-s, --sha1

Use SHA1 as the hash algorithm.

-n, --namespace namespace

Generate the hash with the *namespace* prefix. The *namespace* is UUID, or '@ns' where "ns" is well-known predefined UUID addressed by namespace name (see above).

-N, --name name

Generate the hash of the *name*.

-x, --hex

Interpret name *name* as a hexadecimal string.

CONFORMING TO

OSF DCE 1.1

EXAMPLES

uuidgen --sha1 --namespace @dns --name "www.example.com"

AUTHOR

uuidgen was written by Andreas Dilger for libuuid.

SEE ALSO

libuuid(3), **RFC 4122**

AVAILABILITY

The `uuidgen` command is part of the `util-linux` package and is available from <https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>.