

NAME

openvt – start a program on a new virtual terminal (VT).

SYNOPSIS

openvt [-c vtnumber] [OPTIONS] [--] command

DESCRIPTION

openvt will find the first available VT, and run on it the given **command** with the given **command options**, standard input, output and error are directed to that terminal. The current search path (\$PATH) is used to find the requested command. If no command is specified then the environment variable \$SHELL is used.

OPTIONS

-c, --console=VTNUMBER

Use the given VT number and not the first available. Note you must have write access to the supplied VT for this to work;

-f, --force

Force opening a VT without checking whether it is already in use;

-e, --exec

Directly execute the given command, without forking. This option is meant for use in */etc/inittab*. If you want to use this feature in another context, be aware that **openvt** has to be a session leader in order for -e to work. See **setsid**(2) or **setsid**(1) on how to achieve this.

-s, --switch

Switch to the new VT when starting the command. The VT of the new command will be made the new current VT;

-u, --user

Figure out the owner of the current VT, and run login as that user. Suitable to be called by init. Shouldn't be used with -c or -l;

-l, --login

Make the command a login shell. A - is prepended to the name of the command to be executed;

-v, --verbose

Be a bit more verbose;

-w, --wait

wait for command to complete. If -w and -s are used together then **openvt** will switch back to the controlling terminal when the command completes;

-V, --version

print program version and exit;

-h, --help

show this text and exit.

--

end of options to **openvt**.

NOTE

If **openvt** is compiled with a getopt_long() and you wish to set options to the command to be run, then you must supply the end of options -- flag before the command.

EXAMPLES

openvt can be used to start a shell on the next free VT, by using the command:

```
openvt bash
```

To start the shell as a login shell, use:

```
openvt -l bash
```

To get a long listing you must supply the `---` separator:

openvt -- ls -l

HISTORY

Earlier, **openvt** was called **open**. It was written by Jon Tombs <jon@gtex02.us.es or jon@robots.ox.ac.uk>. The `-w` idea is from "sam".

SEE ALSO

chvt(1), **doshell**(8), **login**(1)