NAME

fstab − static information about the filesystems

SYNOPSIS

#include <fstab.h>

DESCRIPTION

The file **fstab** contains descriptive information about the various file systems. **fstab** is only read by programs, and not written; it is the duty of the system administrator to properly create and maintain this file. Each filesystem is described on a separate line; fields on each line are separated by tabs or spaces. Lines starting with '#' are comments. blank lines are ignored. The order of records in **fstab** is important because **fsck**(8), **mount**(8), and **umount**(8) sequentially iterate through **fstab** doing their thing.

The first field, (*fs_spec*), describes the block special device or remote filesystem to be mounted.

For ordinary mounts it will hold (a link to) a block special device node (as created by **mknod**(8)) for the device to be mounted, like '/dev/cdrom' or '/dev/sdb7'. For NFS mounts one will have <host>:<dir>, e.g., 'knuth.aeb.nl:/'. For procfs, use 'proc'.

Instead of giving the device explicitly, one may indicate the (ext2 or xfs) filesystem that is to be mounted by its UUID or volume label (cf. **e2label**(8) or **xfs_admin**(8)), writing LABEL=<label> or UUID=<uuid>, e.g., 'LABEL=Boot' or 'UUID=3e6be9de-8139-11d1-9106-a43f08d823a6'. This will make the system more robust: adding or removing a SCSI disk changes the disk device name but not the filesystem volume label.

The second field, (*fs_file*), describes the mount point for the filesystem. For swap partitions, this field should be specified as 'none'. If the name of the mount point contains spaces these can be escaped as '\040'.

The third field, (*fs_vfstype*), describes the type of the filesystem. Linux supports lots of filesystem types, such as *adfs*, *affs*, *autofs*, *coda*, *coherent*, *cramfs*, *devpts*, *efs*, *ext2*, *ext3*, *hfs*, *hpfs*, *iso9660*, *jfs*, *minix*, *msdos*, *ncpfs*, *nfs*, *ntfs*, *proc*, *qnx4*, *reiserfs*, *romfs*, *smbfs*, *sysv*, *tmpfs*, *udf* , *ufs*, *umsdos*, *vfat*, *xenix*, *xfs*, and possibly others. For more details, see **mount**(8). For the filesystems currently supported by the running kernel, see */proc/filesystems*. An entry *swap* denotes a file or partition to be used for swapping, cf. **swapon**(8). An entry *ignore* causes the line to be ignored. This is useful to show disk partitions which are currently unused. An entry *none* is useful for bind or move mounts.

mount(8) and **umount**(8) support filesystem subtypes. The subtype is defined by '.subtype' suffix. For example 'fuse.sshfs'. It's recommended to use subtype notation rather than add any prefix to the first fstab field (for example 'sshfs#example.com' is depreacated).

The fourth field, (*fs_mntops*), describes the mount options associated with the filesystem.

It is formatted as a comma separated list of options. It contains at least the type of mount plus any additional options appropriate to the filesystem type. For documentation on the available options for non-nfs file systems, see **mount**(8). For documentation on all nfs-specific options have a look at **nfs**(5). Common for all types of file system are the options ''noauto'' (do not mount when "mount -a" is given, e.g., at boot time), ''user'' (allow a user to mount), and ''owner'' (allow device owner to mount), and ''comment'' (e.g., for use by fstab-maintaining programs). The ''owner'' and ''comment'' options are Linux-specific. For more details, see **mount**(8).

The fifth field, (*fs_freq*), is used for these filesystems by the **dump**(8) command to determine which filesystems need to be dumped. If the fifth field is not present, a value of zero is returned and **dump** will assume that the filesystem does not need to be dumped.

The sixth field, (*fs_passno*), is used by the **fsck**(8) program to determine the order in which filesystem checks are done at reboot time. The root filesystem should be specified with a *fs_passno* of 1, and other

filesystems should have a *fs_passno* of 2. Filesystems within a drive will be checked sequentially, but filesystems on different drives will be checked at the same time to utilize parallelism available in the hardware. If the sixth field is not present or zero, a value of zero is returned and **fsck** will assume that the filesystem does not need to be checked.

The proper way to read records from **fstab** is to use the routines **getmntent**(3).

FILES

/etc/fstab

SEE ALSO

getmntent(3), **mount**(8), **swapon**(8), **fs**(5), **nfs**(5)

HISTORY

The ancestor of this **fstab** file format appeared in 4.0BSD.

AVAILABILITY

This man page is part of the util-linux-ng package and is available from ftp://ftp.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux-ng/.