btrfs(8)

SYNOPSIS

btrfs [global] <group> [<group>...] <command> [<args>]

DESCRIPTION

The **btrfs** utility is a toolbox for managing btrfs filesystems. There are command groups to work with subvolumes, devices, for whole filesystem or other specific actions. See section COMMANDS.

There are also standalone tools for some tasks like btrfs-convert(8) or btrfstune(8) that were separate historically and/or haven't been merged to the main utility. See section STANDALONE TOOLS for more details.

For other topics (mount options, etc) please refer to the separate manual page btrfs(5).

COMMAND SYNTAX

Any command name can be shortened so long as the shortened form is unambiguous, however, it is recommended to use full command names in scripts. All command groups have their manual page named **btrfs-<group>**.

For example: it is possible to run **btrfs sub snaps** instead of **btrfs subvolume snapshot**. But **btrfs file s** is not allowed, because **file s** may be interpreted both as **filesystem show** and as **filesystem sync**.

If the command name is ambiguous, the list of conflicting options is printed.

Sizes, both upon input and output, can be expressed in either SI or IEC-I units (see numfmt(1)) with the suffix *B* appended. All numbers will be formatted according to the rules of the *C* locale (ignoring the shell locale, see locale(7)).

For an overview of a given command use **btrfs command --help** or **btrfs [command...] --help --full** to print all available options.

There are global options that are passed between *btrfs* and the *group* name and affect behaviour not specific to the command, e.g. verbosity or the type of the output.

--format *<format>*

    if supported by the command, print subcommand output in that format (text, json)

-v|--verbose

    increase verbosity of the subcommand

-q|--quiet

    print only errors

--log *<level>*

    set log level (default, info, verbose, debug, quiet)

The remaining options are relevant only for the main tool:

--help

    print condensed help for all subcommands

--version

    print version string

COMMANDS

balance

    Balance btrfs filesystem chunks across single or several devices. See btrfs-balance(8) for details.

check

    Do off-line check on a btrfs filesystem. See btrfs-check(8) for details.

device

    Manage devices managed by btrfs, including add/delete/scan and so on. See btrfs-device(8) for details.

filesystem

    Manage a btrfs filesystem, including label setting/sync and so on. See btrfs-filesystem(8) for details.

inspect-internal

    Debug tools for developers/hackers. See btrfs-inspect-internal(8) for details.

property

    Get/set a property from/to a btrfs object. See btrfs-property(8) for details.

qgroup

    Manage quota group(qgroup) for btrfs filesystem. See btrfs-qgroup(8) for details.

quota

    Manage quota on btrfs filesystem like enabling/rescan and etc. See btrfs-quota(8) and btrfs-qgroup(8) for details.

receive

    Receive subvolume data from stdin/file for restore and etc. See btrfs-receive(8) for details.

replace

    Replace btrfs devices. See btrfs-replace(8) for details.

rescue

    Try to rescue damaged btrfs filesystem. See btrfs-rescue(8) for details.

restore

    Try to restore files from a damaged btrfs filesystem. See btrfs-restore(8) for details.

scrub

    Scrub a btrfs filesystem. See btrfs-scrub(8) for details.

send

    Send subvolume data to stdout/file for backup and etc. See btrfs-send(8) for details.

subvolume

    Create/delete/list/manage btrfs subvolume. See btrfs-subvolume(8) for details.

STANDALONE TOOLS

New functionality could be provided using a standalone tool. If the functionality proves to be useful, then the standalone tool is declared obsolete and its functionality is copied to the main tool. Obsolete tools are removed after a long (years) depreciation period.

Tools that are still in active use without an equivalent in **btrfs**:

btrfs-convert

    in-place conversion from ext2/3/4 filesystems to btrfs

btrfstune

tweak some filesystem properties on a unmounted filesystem

btrfs-select-super

rescue tool to overwrite primary superblock from a spare copy

btrfs-find-root

rescue helper to find tree roots in a filesystem

For space-constrained environments, it's possible to build a single binary with functionality of several standalone tools. This is following the concept of busybox where the file name selects the functionality. This works for symlinks or hardlinks. The full list can be obtained by **btrfs help --box**.

EXIT STATUS

btrfs returns a zero exit status if it succeeds. Non zero is returned in case of failure.

AVAILABILITY

btrfs is part of btrfs-progs. Please refer to the documentation at https://btrfs.readthedocs.io.

SEE ALSO

btrfs(5), btrfs-balance(8), btrfs-check(8), btrfs-convert(8), btrfs-device(8), btrfs-filesystem(8), btrfs-inspect-internal(8), btrfs-property(8), btrfs-qgroup(8), btrfs-quota(8), btrfs-receive(8), btrfs-replace(8), btrfs-rescue(8), btrfs-restore(8), btrfs-scrub(8), btrfs-send(8), btrfs-subvolume(8), btrfstune(8), mkfs.btrfs(8)

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