

## NAME

imfile - Discerns the image format of a file or files

## SYNOPSIS

imfile [options] filename1 filename2 ...

## DESCRIPTION

imfile attempts to discern the image format of each file listed on the command line, much like the UNIX file(1) utility. imfile outputs the name of the file and its image file format to stdout.

## OPTIONS

Invoke imfile with one or more filenames, optionally preceded by the -infile argument:

```
imfile -infile picture.pix newpic.ras
or
imfile picture.pix newpic.ras
```

imfile checks each file for a magic number and file name extension, then prints to stdout its conclusions about the file's format. When the -long option is given, imfile reads in each image file and prints to stdout additional information about the file. -long information includes the file's format and format version (if applicable), the number of images contained in the file, image resolution, image type (color indexed, RGB, etc), the size of its color table (if any), the type of image compression used by the file, and other data relevant to the particular image file format.

If the file being queried is compressed (e.g. with .Z, .gz, or .z compression), then imfile will not attempt to uncompress it. Instead it will realize that the file is compressed, (by using the file's magic number or filename suffix), and then announce that you are querying a compressed file. If you wish to uncompress a file and discern its format, then the -long option must be used.

imfile also recognizes the following standard SDSC options:

-feedback

Creates a software feedback (bug report) form in the file imfile.fbk.0.

-fullhelp

Displays a detailed list of the arguments and how to use imfile.

-help

Displays an abbreviated list of the arguments and how to use imfile.

-register

Creates a software-user registration form in the file imfile.reg.0.

-version

Displays the version number and copyright for imfile.

All options can be abbreviated to the first few unique characters.

## NOTES

imfile discerns the type of a file first by checking the file's magic number against a magic number list for known image formats and file compression formats. If the magic number doesn't match any of those in the list, imfile looks at the filename's suffix (the characters following the last period in the filename) and checks it against a list of known image filename suffixes and file compression suffixes.

If imfile cannot determine the format of a file, it outputs the string "Unknown image file format."

#### EXAMPLES

Determine the types of three files:

```
imfile thing1.pix thing2.hdf dr.who
```

The above command outputs:

```
thing1.pix:  'pix', Alias image file, Alias Research, Inc.
thing2.hdf:  'hdf', Hierarchical Data File, NCSA
dr.who:      Unknown image file format
```

Display specific information about two image files using -long:

```
imfile walking.pict dolphin.pix
```

The above command outputs:

```
walking.pict:  'pict', Apple Macintosh QuickDraw/PICT file, Apple Computer, Inc.
               Version:                2 (32-bit QuickDraw PICT2)
               Byte Order:              Most Significant Byte First
               Resolution:              646 x 470
               Type:                    8-bit Color Indexed
               Color Table:             237 Entries
               Compression Type:        Apple Macintosh PackBits
dolphin.pix:   'pix', Alias image file, Alias Research, Inc.
               Byte Order:              Most Significant Byte First
               Resolution:              420 x 420
               Type:                    24-bit RGB
               Compression Type:        Run Length Encoded (RLE)
```

#### SEE ALSO

imformats (1IM)

For information on SDSC's image library, see imintro(3IM).

#### AUTHOR

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See the individual file format man pages for the authors of the underlying format read and write code. The names of these man pages begin with the letters "im" followed by the format name. For example, the name of the TIFF man page is imtiff. To display it, enter man imtiff.

#### CONTACT

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