NAME

hformat − create a new HFS filesystem and make it current

SYNOPSIS

hformat [-f] [-l *label*] *destination-path* [*partition-no*]

DESCRIPTION

hformat is used to write a new HFS filesystem to a volume. A UNIX pathname to the volume's destination must be specified. The destination may be either a block device or a regular file, but it must already exist and be writable.

An optional label can be specified to name the volume. The name must be between 1-27 characters and cannot contain a colon (:). By default, the volume will be named **Untitled**.

If the destination medium is partitioned, one partition must be selected to receive the filesystem. If there is only one HFS partition on the medium, it will be selected by default. Otherwise, the desired partition number must be specified (as the ordinal *n*th HFS partition) on the command-line. The size of the partition determines the size of the resulting volume.

Partition number **0** can be specified to format the entire medium as a single filesystem without a partition map, erasing any existing partition information. Since this will destroy all the partitions, the **-f** option must be specified to force this operation if the medium currently contains a partition map.

If the medium is not partitioned (or if partition 0 is specified), the size or capacity of the medium determines the size of the resulting volume.

The new volume will be empty and will become "current" so subsequent commands will refer to it. The current working directory for the volume is set to the root of the volume.

EXAMPLES

% hformat /dev/fd0

If a floppy disk is available as **/dev/fd0**, this formats the disk as an HFS volume named **Untitled**. (N.B. The floppy must already have received a low-level format by other means.)

% dd if=/dev/zero of=disk.hfs bs=1k count=800
% hformat -l "Test Disk" disk.hfs

This sequence creates an 800K HFS volume image in the file **disk.hfs** in the current directory, and names it **Test Disk**.

% hformat -l "Loma Prieta" /dev/sd2 1

If a SCSI disk is available as **/dev/sd2**, this initializes the first HFS partition on the disk (which must already exist) with a new filesystem, naming the resulting volume **Loma Prieta**.

% hformat -f /dev/sd2 0

This causes the medium accessible as **/dev/sd2** to be reformatted as a single HFS volume, ignoring and erasing any existing partition information on the medium. The **-f** option must be specified if the medium is currently partitioned; otherwise the command will fail.

NOTES

This command does not create or alter partition maps, although it can erase them (as described above). Any partition number specified on the command line must already exist.

The smallest volume size which can be formatted with **hformat** is 800K.

SEE ALSO

hfsutils(1), hmount(1)

FILES

$HOME/.hcwd

AUTHOR

Robert Leslie <rob@mars.org>