NAME

rmt − remote magnetic tape server

SYNOPSIS

rmt

DESCRIPTION

Rmt provides remote access to files and devices for **tar**(1), **cpio**(1), and similar backup utilities. It is normally called by running **rsh**(1) or **ssh**(1) to the remote machine, optionally using a different login name if one is supplied.

The calling program communicates with **rmt** by sending requests on its standard input and reading replies from the standard output. A request consists of a request letter followed by an argument (if required) and a newline character. Additional data, if any, are sent after the newline. On success,**rmt** returns

A*number***\n**

where *number* is an ASCII representation of a decimal return code. Additional data are returned after this line. On error, the following response is returned:

E*errno***\n***error-message***\n**

where *errno* is one of the system error codes, as described in **errno**(3), and *error-message* is a one-line human-readable description of the error, as printed by **perror**(3).

Available commands and possible responses are discussed in detail in the subsequent section.

COMMANDS

O*device***\n** *flags***\n**

Opens the *device* with given *flags*. If a device had already been opened, it is closed before opening the new one.

Arguments

device The name of the device to open.

flags Flags for **open**(2): a decimal number, or any valid **O_*** constant from **fcntl.h** (the initial **O_** may be omitted), or a bitwise or (using |) of any number of these, e.g.:

```
576
64|512
CREAT|TRUNC
```

In addition, a combined form is also allowed, i.e. a decimal mode followed by its symbolic representation. In this case the symbolic representation is given preference.

Reply

A0\n on success.

Extensions

BSD version allows only decimal number as *flags*.

C[*device*]**\n**

Close the currently open device.

Arguments

Any arguments are silently ignored.

Reply

A0\n on success.

L*whence***\n***offset***\n**

Performs an **lseek**(2) on the currently open device with the specified parameters.

Arguments

whence Where to measure offset from. Valid values are:

0, SET, SEEK_SET	seek from the file beginning
1, CUR, SEEK_CUR	seek from the current location
2, END, SEEK_END	seek from the file end

Reply

A*offset***n** on success. The *offset* is the new offset in file.

Extensions

BSD version allows only 0,1,2 as *whence*.

R*count***n**

Read *count* bytes of data from the current device.

Arguments

count number of bytes to read.

Reply

On success:

A*rdcount***n**

followed by *rdcount* bytes of data read from the device.

W*count***n**

Writes data onto the current device. The command is followed by *count* bytes of input data.

Arguments

count Number of bytes to write.

Reply

On success: **A***wrcount***n**, where *wrcount* is the number of bytes actually written.

I*opcode***n***count***n**

Perform a **MTIOCOP ioctl**(2) command with the specified paramedters.

Arguments

opcode **MTIOCOP** operation code.

count mt_count.

Reply

On success: **A0\n**.

S\n Returns the status of the currently open device, as obtained from a **MTIOCGET ioctl**(2) call.

Arguments

None

Reply

On success: **A***count***n** followed by *count* bytes of data.

SEE ALSO

tar(1).

BUGS

Using this utility as a general-purpose remote file access tool is discouraged.

BUG REPORTS

Report bugs to <bug−tar@gnu.org>.

HISTORY

The **rmt** command appeared in 4.2BSD. The GNU **rmt** is written from scratch, using the BSD specification.

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