

NAME

backsh – Backup shell

SYNOPSIS

backsh *directory filename*

DESCRIPTION

backsh reads data from its standard input and writes the data to a file in the specified *directory* with the specified *filename* prepended by the current timestamp in the format **YYYYMMDDZHHMMSS**. The resulting file will be located at:

directory/YYYYMMDDZHHMMSS-filename.

The program creates files with permissions set to 0600.

It is intended to be specified as a shell in a remote backup host computer, allowing potentially untrusted clients to backup data to the specified directory, without providing them remote access to a command shell or the ability to delete existing backup files. Note that it is still possible for a compromised backup client to cause a denial of service attack by writing too many files, or by filling up the backup host's disk space.

ARGUMENTS

directory

Specifies the target directory where the file will be created. This directory must already exist and be writable by the shell's user.

filename

Specifies the base name of the file to be created. The current timestamp will be prepended to this name, as a measure to prevent the deletion of old existing backup files.

OPTIONS

The command does not accept any options.

EXIT STATUS

0 Successful execution.

1 An error occurred during execution. See error messages for details.

EXAMPLES

Create a file with the standard input data in /tmp directory with a base name of **output.txt**:

```
[backup-client]$ tar czf - . |  
> ssh backsh@backup-host.example.com backup-files backup.tar.gz  
[backup-host]$ ls backup-files  
20231214Z123456-backup.tar.gz
```

ERRORS

The following errors may occur:

File path too long

The combined directory, timestamp, and filename exceed the system's path length limit.

Error opening file

The file could not be created due to permissions or other system errors.

Error reading from stdin

An error occurred while reading input.

Error writing to file

An error occurred while writing data to the file.

SEE ALSO

ssh(2), **passwd(5)**

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