NAME

wak — an implementation of the awk programming language

SYNOPSIS

wak [**−F** sepstring] [**−v** assignment]... program [argument...]
or
wak [**−F** sepstring] **−f** progfile [**−f** progfile]...
[**−v** assignment]... [argument...]
also:
[**−V**, **−−version**] [**−h**, **−−help**] [**−b**] [**−c**]

DESCRIPTION

wak is an implementation of the awk programming language, primarily as described by POSIX.1-2024 (also known as IEEE Std 1003.1™-2024 Edition and The Open Group Standard Base Specifications, Issue 8), with a few omissions and additions.

This document does not attempt to describe the awk language. The POSIX specification may be seen at https://pubs.opengroup.org/onlinepubs/9799919799/utilities/awk.html . Please consult that document for a complete description.

OPTIONS

−F sepstring — Input field separator; may be a regular expression

−v assignment — An assignment expression of the form var=string_value; the assignment precedes the start of execution of the program. The right-hand side is taken as a string.

−f progfile — Pathname of an awk program file. More than one program file may be specified, treated as if concatenated.

−V, **−−version** — Display the program version and exit successfully.

−h, **−−help** — Display a brief help screen and exit successfully.

−b — Treat input files as bytes rather than UTF-8 characters. (This option is experimental.)

−c — Compile the program to internal format but do not execute. Can be used to check for syntax errors without running the program.

program — If no **-f** options are supplied, the first non-option argument is taken to be a string that contains an entire awk program, usually used for short awk programs that can be entered in a single line. Only one such program may be used in this command format.

argument — Remaining arguments are taken as input files to the awk program, or as assignments of the form var=string_value.

DIFFERENCES FROM POSIX AWK

wak is intended to conform to the POSIX awk specification with some omissions and additions. The major omission is locale support. The program attempts to set its locale's LC_CTYPE to a UTF-8 locale if it is not already set as such, and uses the native mumeric locale, but otherwise does not use the LC_* locale settings.

The major addition is the use of (extended) regular expressions as values of RS, the record separator special variable. This is an extension common to nearly all awk implementations, including the extension common to nearly all awk implementations, including gawk, mawk, and the original (Unix) "One True Awk" (current version).

BUGS

This is a recent implementation, and as such, there are probably quite a few bugs. Please report any bugs you find to raygard at gmail dot com.

AUTHORS

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MISCELLANEOUS

Feel free to rename **wak** to awk if that does not conflict with your current installation environment.

wak is not as fast as mawk and not as full-featured as gawk, and is not intended as a replacement or competitor to either, or to any other implementation.