

# pr command in Linux

In Linux/Unix `pr` command is used to prepare a file for printing by adding suitable footers, headers, and the formatted text. **pr** command actually adds 5 lines of margin both at the top and bottom of the page. The header part shows the date and time of the last modification of the file with the file name and the page number.

## Syntax:

```
pr [options][filename]
```

## Working with pr command

1. To print k number of columns we use `-k`. Let's say, we have a file that contains 10 numbers from 1 to 10 with every number in a new line.



```
akash@akash-Vostro-5568:~$ cat abc.txt
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
```

Now if we want to print this content in 3 columns we will use the following command.

```
pr -3 abc.txt
```

here `abc.txt` is the name of file.

---

```
akash@akash-Vostro-5568:~$ pr -3 abc.txt
```

```
2020-09-11 06:01
```

```
abc.txt
```

```
Page 1
```

```
1          5          8
2          6          9
3          7         10
4
```

2. To suppress the headers and footers the -t option is used.

```
pr -t abc.txt
```

After executing the above command it will give us the following output.

```
akash@akash-Vostro-5568:~$ pr -t abc.txt
```

```
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
```

3. To Double the paces input, reduces clutter -d option is used.

```
pr -d abc.txt
```

After executing the above command it will give us the following output.

---

```
akash@akash-Vostro-5568:~$ pr -d abc.txt
```

```
2020-09-11 06:01                abc.txt                Page 1
```

```
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
```

4. To provide number lines which helps in debugging the code -n option is used.

```
pr -n abc.txt
```

After executing the above command it will give us the following output.

```
akash@akash-Vostro-5568:~$ pr -n abc.txt
```

```
2020-09-11 06:01                abc.txt                Page 1
```

```
1    1
2    2
3    3
4    4
5    5
6    6
7    7
8    8
9    9
10   10
```

5. To print the version number of the command --version is used.

```
pr --version
```

After executing the command, it will return us the version in the below mentioned format.

---

```
akash@akash-Vostro-5568:~$ pr --version
pr (GNU coreutils) 8.30
Copyright (C) 2018 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <https://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>.
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
```

Written by Pete TerMaat and Roland Huebner.

6. To open the help section of the command or to get the details of all the options and attributes of the command `--help` is used.

```
pr --help
```

After executing the command, it will return us the help section in the following way.

```
akash@akash-Vostro-5568:~$ pr --help
Usage: pr [OPTION]... [FILE]...
Paginate or columnate FILE(s) for printing.

With no FILE, or when FILE is -, read standard input.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.
+FIRST_PAGE[=LAST_PAGE], --pages=FIRST_PAGE[:LAST_PAGE]
    begin [stop] printing with page FIRST_[LAST_]PAGE
-COLUMN, --columns=NUMBER
    output COLUMN columns and print columns down,
    unless -a is used. Balance number of lines in the
    columns on each page
-a, --across
    print columns across rather than down, used together
    with -COLUMN
-c, --show-control-chars
    use hat notation (^C) and octal backslash notation
-d, --double-space
    double space the output
-D, --date-format=FORMAT
    use FORMAT for the header date
-e[CHAR[WIDTH]], --expand-tabs[=CHAR[WIDTH]]
    expand input CHARs (TABs) to tab WIDTH (8)
-F, -f, --form-feed
    use form feeds instead of newlines to separate pages
    (by a 3-line page header with -F or a 5-line header
    and trailer without -F)
-h, --header=HEADER
    use a centered HEADER instead of filename in page header,
    -h "" prints a blank line, don't use -h""
-l[CHAR[WIDTH]], --output-tabs[=CHAR[WIDTH]]
    replace spaces with CHARs (TABs) to tab WIDTH (8)
-J, --join-lines
    merge full lines, turns off -w line truncation, no column
    alignment, --sep-string[=STRING] sets separators
-l, --length=PAGE_LENGTH
    set the page length to PAGE_LENGTH (66) lines
    (default number of lines of text 56, and with -F 63).
    implies -t if PAGE_LENGTH <= 10
-m, --merge
    print all files in parallel, one in each column,
    truncate lines, but join lines of full length with -J
-n[SEP[DIGITS]], --number-lines[=SEP[DIGITS]]
    number lines, use DIGITS (5) digits, then SEP (TAB),
    default counting starts with 1st line of input file
-N, --first-line-number=NUMBER
    start counting with NUMBER at 1st line of first
    page printed (see +FIRST_PAGE)
-o, --indent=MARGIN
    offset each line with MARGIN (zero) spaces, do not
    affect -w or -M, MARGIN will be added to PAGE_WIDTH
-r, --no-file-warnings
    omit warning when a file cannot be opened
-s[CHAR], --separator[=CHAR]
    separate columns by a single character, default for CHAR
    is the <TAB> character without -w and 'no char' with -w.
    -s[CHAR] turns off line truncation of all 3 column
    options (-COLUMN)-a -COLUMN)-n except -w is set
```