Linux csplit command

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On Unix-like operating systems, the **csplit** command splits a file into sections, based on context lines.

This page covers the GNU/Linux version of **ucsplit**.

Description

csplit outputs pieces of FILE separated by PATTERN(s) to files '**xx00**', '**xx01**', ..., and output byte counts of each piece to standard output.

Syntax

```
csplit [OPTION]... FILE PATTERN...
```

Options

-b, **--suffix-format**=*FORMAT*	Use **sprintf** *FORMAT* instead of **%02d**.
-f, **--prefix**=*PREFIX*	Use *PREFIX* instead of '**xx**'.
-k, **--keep-files**	Do not remove output files on errors.
-n, **--digits**=*DIGITS*	Use specified number of digits instead of 2.
-s, **--quiet**, **--silent**	Do not print counts of output file sizes.
-z, **--elide-empty-files**	Remove empty output files.
--help	Display a help message and exit.
--version	Output version information and exit.

csplit reads standard input if FILE is specified as a dash ("**-**"). Each PATTERN may be:

INTEGER	Copy up to but not including specified line number.
/REGEXP/[OFFSET]	Copy up to but not including a matching line.
%REGEXP%[OFFSET]	Skip to, but not including a matching line.
{INTEGER}	Repeat the previous pattern specified number of times.

{*}	Repeat the previous pattern as often as possible.

A line OFFSET is a required '**+**' or '**-**' followed by a positive integer.

Examples

```
csplit -f cobol filename '/procedure division/' /par5./ /par16./
```

Creates four files, **cobol00**...**cobol03**.

After editing the split files, they can be recombined into **filename** using the **cat** command as follows:

```
cat cobol0[0-3] > filename
```

Related commands

cat — Output the contents of a file.
sed — A utility for filtering and transforming text.
split — Split a file into pieces.