## NAME

wimextract – Extract files from a WIM image

## SYNOPSIS

**wimextract** *WIMFILE IMAGE* [(*PATH* | @*LISTFILE*)...]  [*OPTION*...]

## DESCRIPTION

**wimextract**, or equivalently **wimlib-imagex extract**, extracts one or more files or directory trees from the specified *IMAGE* contained in the Windows Imaging (WIM) archive *WIMFILE*.

**wimextract** is intended for extracting only a subset of a WIM image.  If you want to extract or "apply" a full WIM image to a directory or NTFS volume, use **wimapply**(1) instead.

*IMAGE* specifies the image in *WIMFILE* from which to extract the files or directory trees.  It may be the 1-based index of an image or the name of an image.  It may be omitted if *WIMFILE* contains only one image.  You can use **wiminfo**(1) to list the images contained in *WIMFILE*.

If no additional arguments are given, the entire WIM image is extracted.  Otherwise, each additional argument is interpreted as a *PATH* if it does not begin with the '@' character, or a *LISTFILE* if it does.  Each *PATH* specifies a file or directory tree within the WIM image to extract, whereas each *LISTFILE* specifies a file that itself contains a list of paths to extract.  If a *LISTFILE* is "-" (i.e. the whole argument is "@-"), then the listfile is read from standard input.  See **PATHS AND LISTFILES** for more details.

By default, files and directories are extracted to the current directory.  Use **--dest-dir** to select a different destination directory.  Alternatively, use **--to-stdout** to extract a file to standard output to pipe into another program.

A file or directory extracted from a *PATH* argument is by default extracted directly into the destination directory, whereas a file or directory extracted from a *LISTFILE* argument is by default extracted into the destination directory in such a way that the archive's directory structure is preserved.  Use **--preserve-dir-structure** to always get the latter behavior.

**wimextract** supports extracting files and directory trees from stand-alone WIMs as well as split WIMs.  See **SPLIT WIMS**.

## PATHS AND LISTFILES

Each path, including those on the command line and those in listfiles, must be specified as an absolute path starting from the root of the WIM image, like those output by **wimdir**(1).  However, path separators may be either forward or backward slashes, and the leading slash is optional.

On Windows, by default paths are treated case-insensitively, whereas on UNIX-like systems, by default paths are treated case-sensitively.  In either case, the default behavior may be overridden through the **WIMLIB_IMAGEX_IGNORE_CASE** environmental variable, as documented in **wimlib-imagex**(1).

By default, each path may contain the wildcard characters '?' and '*'.  The '?' character matches any non-path-separator character, whereas the '*' character matches zero or more non-path-separator characters.  Consequently, a single wildcard path, or "glob", may expand to multiple actual files or directories.  Use the **--no-globs** option to disable wildcard matching and search for each path literally.

Each *LISTFILE* must be a text file (UTF-8 or UTF-16LE encoded; plain ASCII is also fine) that contains a list of paths to extract, one per line.  Wildcard characters are allowed by default.  The following demonstrates an example listfile:

        ; This is a comment (begins with semicolon)
        # This is also a comment (begins with number sign)
        /Users
        /Windows/explorer.exe
        /Windows/System32/en-US/*

        ; Both forward and backslashes are valid.
        ; It's not necessary to quote paths containing internal spaces.
        \Program Files\A*

                    ; Leading and trailing whitespace is ignored
                        \Windows\notepad*


**SPLIT WIMS**

You may use **wimextract** to extract files or directory trees from a split WIM.  This uses the **--refs**="*GLOB*" option in the same way as in other commands such as **wimapply**.  See **wimapply**(1) for more details.

**OPTIONS**

**--check**

Before extracting the files, verify the integrity of *WIMFILE* if it contains extra integrity information.

**--ref**="*GLOB*"

File glob of additional WIMs or split WIM parts to reference resources from.  See **SPLIT_WIMS**. Note: *GLOB* is listed in quotes because it is interpreted by **wimextract** and may need to be quoted to protect against shell expansion.

**--dest-dir**=*DIR*

Extract the files and directories to the directory *DIR* instead of to the current working directory.

**--to-stdout**

Extract the files to standard output instead of to the filesystem.  This can only be provided if all the specified paths are to regular files (not directories or reparse points).  If present, named data streams are not extracted.

**--unix-data**

See the documentation for this option to **wimapply**(1).

**--no-acls**

See the documentation for this option to **wimapply**(1).

**--strict-acls**

See the documentation for this option to **wimapply**(1).

**--no-attributes**

See the documentation for this option to **wimapply**(1).

**--include-invalid-names**

See the documentation for this option to **wimapply**(1).

**--no-globs**

Do not recognize wildcard characters in paths.  Each path will be searched for literally.  In addition, if case insensitivity is enabled, do not allow a single path to match multiple files with the same case-insensitive name but different case-sensitive names.

**--no-wildcards** is also accepted as an alias for this option.

**--nullglob**

If a glob does not match any files, ignore it and print a warning instead of failing with an error.  In other words, this option allows a glob to successfully match zero files.

This option also affects paths that do not contain wildcard characters, since such paths are still considered globs unless **--no-globs** is enabled.  If case-insensitivity is enabled, such a glob could match multiple files with the same case-insensitive name but different case-sensitive names, whereas a non-glob path (with **--no-globs**) can match at most one file.

**--preserve-dir-structure**

When extracting paths, preserve the archive directory structure instead of extracting the file or directory tree named by each path directly to the destination directory.  Note: **--preserve-dir-structure** is already the default behavior for paths in listfiles, but not paths directly specified on the command line.

> **--wimboot**
>> See the documentation for this option to **wimapply**(1).
>
> **--compact=***FORMAT*
>> See the documentation for this option to **wimapply**(1).
>
> **--recover-data**
>> See the documentation for this option to **wimapply**(1).

## NOTES

See **wimapply**(1) for information about what data and metadata are extracted on UNIX-like systems versus on Windows.

Reparse-point fixups (a.k.a. changing absolute symbolic links and junctions to point within the extraction location) are never done by **wimextract**.  Use **wimapply** if you want this behavior.

Unlike **wimapply**, **wimextract** does not support extracting files directly to an NTFS volume using libntfs-3g.

## EXAMPLES

Extract a file from the first image in "boot.wim" to the current directory:

    wimextract boot.wim 1 /Windows/System32/notepad.exe

Extract a file from the first image in "boot.wim" to standard output:

    wimextract boot.wim 1 /Windows/System32/notepad.exe --to-stdout

Extract a file from the first image in "boot.wim" to the specified directory:

    wimextract boot.wim 1 /Windows/System32/notepad.exe \
            --dest-dir=somedir

Extract the "sources" directory from the first image in "boot.wim" to the current directory:

    wimextract boot.wim 1 /sources

Extract multiple files and directories in one command:

    wimextract boot.wim 1 /Windows/Fonts \
            /sources /Windows/System32/cmd.exe

Extract many files to the current directory using a wildcard pattern:

    wimextract install.wim 1 "/Windows/Fonts/*.ttf"

Extract files using a list file:

    wimextract install.wim 1 @files.txt

 ... where files.txt could be something like:

        Windows\System32\*.*
        Windows\System32\??-??\*.*
        Windows\System32\en-US\*.*

## SEE ALSO

**wimlib-imagex**(1) **wimapply**(1) **wimdir**(1) **wiminfo**(1)