

NAME

`cp`, `ln`, `mv` - copy, link, or move files

SYNOPSIS

```
cp [-d] file1 [ file2 ...] target  
ln [-d] file1 [ file2 ...] target  
mv [-d] file1 [ file2 ...] target
```

DESCRIPTION

File1 is copied (linked, moved) to *target*. Under no circumstance can *file1* and *target* be the same. If *target* is a directory, then one or more files are copied (linked, moved) to that directory.

If *mv* determines that the mode of *target* forbids writing, it will print the mode (see *chmod(2)*) and read the standard input for one line (if the standard input is a terminal). If the line begins with *y*, the move takes place otherwise *mv* exits.

Only *mv* will allow *file1* to be a directory. In this case the directory rename will occur only if the two directories have the same parent.

The `-d` switch will cause the date of the original file to be retained (or inherited) by the resulting file. This is particularly useful when moving files to new devices, where the original date conveys useful information about the contents of the file. For the *mv* and *ln* command, the original date can only be retained if the user is root or the owner of the file.

SEE ALSO

`rm(1)`, `chmod(2)`, `utime(2)`

BUGS

If *file1* and *target* lie on different file systems, *mv* must copy the file and delete the original. In this case the owner name becomes that of the copying process and any linking relationship with other files is lost.

Ln will not link across file systems at all.