

NAME

bsdiff - generate a patch between two binary files

SYNOPSIS

bsdiff *oldfile newfile patchfile*

DESCRIPTION

The **bsdiff** utility compares *oldfile* to *newfile* and writes to *patchfile* a binary patch suitable for use by `bspatch(1)`. When *oldfile* and *newfile* are two versions of an executable program, the patches produced are on average a factor of five smaller than those produced by any other binary patch tool known to the author.

The **bsdiff** utility uses memory equal to 17 times the size of *oldfile*, and requires an absolute minimum working set size of 8 times the size of *oldfile*.

SEE ALSO

`bspatch(1)`

AUTHORS

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BUGS

The **bsdiff** utility does not store the hashes of *oldfile* or *newfile* in *patchfile*. As a result, it is possible to apply a patch to the wrong file; this will usually produce garbage. It is recommended that users of **bsdiff** store the hashes of *oldfile* and *newfile* and compare against them before and after applying *patchfile*.