

NAME

head - display first lines of a file

SYNOPSIS

head [-**qv**] [-**n** *count* | -**c** *bytes*] [*file* ...]

DESCRIPTION

This filter displays the first *count* lines or *bytes* of each of the specified files, or of the standard input if no files are specified. If *count* is omitted it defaults to 10.

The following options are available:

-c *bytes*, **--bytes**=*bytes*

Print *bytes* of each of the specified files.

-n *count*, **--lines**=*count*

Print *count* lines of each of the specified files.

Both *count* and *bytes* may also be specified with size suffixes supported by `expand_number(3)`.

-q, **--quiet**, **--silent**

Suppresses printing of headers when multiple files are being examined.

-v, **--verbose**

Prepend each file with a header.

If more than a single file is specified, or if the **-v** option is used, each file is preceded by a header consisting of the string "`==> XXX <==`" where "XXX" is the name of the file. The **-q** flag disables the printing of the header in all cases.

EXIT STATUS

The **head** utility exits 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

EXAMPLES

To display the first 500 lines of the file *foo*:

```
$ head -n 500 foo
```

head can be used in conjunction with `tail(1)` in the following way to, for example, display only line 500 from the file *foo*:

```
$ head -n 500 foo | tail -n 1
```

SEE ALSO

tail(1), expand_number(3)

HISTORY

The **head** command appeared in PWB UNIX.