

NAME

uudecode – a very accommodating and safe multi-file uudecode and base64 convertor

SYNOPSIS

uudecode [-[l|u]nrst] [*file* | -] ...

DESCRIPTION

Uudecode extracts a sequence of uuencoded and base64 files from the concatenation of the argument files, ignoring file begins and ends. An argument `-` denotes standard input.

Input lines are ignored until a uuencode ‘begin’ line or a full base64 line is encountered, but ‘Date:’ line are examined, as described below. Then a uuencoded or base64 file is read, converted and written to a file. The reading process stops at a uuencode ‘end’ line for the uuencoded file or a base64 line ending in ‘=’ or a non-base64 line for the base64 file. Reading a uuencoded file ignores all lines in the middle that contain non-uuencode characters.

The name of a uudecode file derives from the ‘begin’ line, that of a base64 file is guessed from previous lines; if no guess exists, ‘b64’ is used. ISO-8859-1 file names are understood. Spaces and tabs, leading and trailing dots, and illegal characters in file names are replaced by underscores, to avoid strange trouble. File names containing directories are truncated to their base names. This allows almost all email and news files to be entered as they come.

If a date/time could be guessed from a ‘Date:’ line that might belong to the present output file, its date and time are set accordingly, if possible.

The `-l` option causes the file names to be converted to lower case before file creation is attempted; `-u` converts to upper case.

The `-n` option prevents the files from actually being created; it sets the `-r` option.

The `-r` option reports, on standard output, each file as it is created.

The `-s` option causes warning messages to be suppressed.

The `-S` option causes the number of files read, written, and renamed to be reported.

The `-t` option causes the text before each begin of file to be saved in a file with a corresponding file name ending in `.txt`, to a maximum of 10240 bytes.

If requested to decode a file the name of which already exists, *uudecode* will “increase” the name until an unoccupied file name is found, which is then used instead. This name change is reported on standard output.

Note that *uudecode* will not write outside the directory it is called in: compound file names are reduced to their base names.

SEE ALSO

There are many other uudecodes around, but few of them do base64, and even fewer set the date and time, or provide this level of safety.

AUTHOR

Dick Grune, dick@dickgrune.com.