Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'column.1'

$ man column.1

COLUMN(1)	User Commands	COLUMN(1)

NAME

column - columnate lists

SYNOPSIS

column [options] [file ...]

DESCRIPTION

The column utility formats its input into multiple columns. The util support three modes:

columns are filled before rows

This is the default mode (required by backward compatibility).

rows are filled before columns

This mode is enabled by option -x, --fillrows

table

Determine the number of columns the input contains and create a table. This mode is

enabled by option -t, --table and columns formatting is possible to modify by

--table-* options. Use this mode if not sure.

Input is taken from file, or otherwise from standard input. Empty lines are ignored and

all invalid multibyte sequences are encoded by x<hex> convention.

OPTIONS

The argument columns for --table-* options is a comma separated list of the column names

as defined by --table-columns or it?s column number in order as specified by input. It?s

possible to mix names and numbers. The special placeholder '0' (e.g. -R0) may be used to

specify all columns.

-J, --json

Use JSON output format to print the table, the option --table-columns is required and the option --table-name is recommended.

-c, --output-width width

Output is formatted to a width specified as number of characters. The original name of this option is --columns; this name is deprecated since v2.30. Note that input longer than width is not truncated by default.

-d, --table-noheadings

Do not print header. This option allows the use of logical column names on the command line, but keeps the header hidden when printing the table.

-o, --output-separator string

Specify the columns delimiter for table output (default is two spaces).

-s, --separator separators

Specify the possible input item delimiters (default is whitespace).

-t, --table

Determine the number of columns the input contains and create a table. Columns are delimited with whitespace, by default, or with the characters supplied using the --output-separator option. Table output is useful for pretty-printing.

-N, --table-columns names

Specify the columns names by comma separated list of names. The names are used for the table header or to address column in option arguments.

-l, --table-columns-limit number

Specify maximal number of the input columns. The last column will contain all remaining line data if the limit is smaller than the number of the columns in the input data.

-R, --table-right columns

Right align text in the specified columns.

-T, --table-truncate columns

Specify columns where text can be truncated when necessary, otherwise very long table entries may be printed on multiple lines.

-E, --table-noextreme columns

Specify columns where is possible to ignore unusually long (longer than average) cells when calculate column width. The option has impact to the width calculation and table formatting, but the printed text is not affected.

The option is used for the last visible column by default.

-e, --table-header-repeat

Print header line for each page.

-W, --table-wrap columns

Specify columns where is possible to use multi-line cell for long text when necessary.

-H, --table-hide columns

Don?t print specified columns. The special placeholder '-' may be used to hide all

unnamed columns (see --table-columns).

-O, --table-order columns

Specify columns order on output.

-n, --table-name name

Specify the table name used for JSON output. The default is "table".

-L, --keep-empty-lines

Preserve whitespace-only lines in the input. The default is ignore empty lines at all.

This option?s original name was --table-empty-lines but is now deprecated because it

gives the false impression that the option only applies to table mode.

-r, --tree column

Specify column to use tree-like output. Note that the circular dependencies and other

anomalies in child and parent relation are silently ignored.

-i, --tree-id column

Specify column with line ID to create child-parent relation.

-p, --tree-parent column

Specify column with parent ID to create child-parent relation.

-x, --fillrows

Fill rows before filling columns.

-V, --version

Display version information and exit.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

ENVIRONMENT

The environment variable COLUMNS is used to determine the size of the screen if no other

information is available.

HISTORY

The column command appeared in 4.3BSD-Reno.

BUGS

Version 2.23 changed the -s option to be non-greedy, for example:

printf "a:b:c\n1::3\n" | column -t -s ':'

Old output:

a b c

1 3

New output (since util-linux 2.23):

a b c

1   3

Historical versions of this tool indicated that "rows are filled before columns" by

default, and that the -x option reverses this. This wording did not reflect the actual

behavior, and it has since been corrected (see above). Other implementations of column may

continue to use the older documentation, but the behavior should be identical in any case.

EXAMPLES

Print fstab with header line and align number to the right:

sed 's/#.*//' /etc/fstab | column --table --table-columns SOURCE,TARGET,TYPE,OPTIONS,PASS,FREQ --table-right

PASS,FREQ

Print fstab and hide unnamed columns:

sed 's/#.*//' /etc/fstab | column --table --table-columns SOURCE,TARGET,TYPE --table-hide -

Print a tree:

echo -e '1 0 A\n2 1 AA\n3 1 AB\n4 2 AAA\n5 2 AAB' | column --tree-id 1 --tree-parent 2 --tree 3

1 0 A

2 1 |-AA

4 2 | |-AAA

5 2 | `-AAB

3 1 `-AB

SEE ALSO

colrm(1), ls(1), paste(1), sort(1)

REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at https://github.com/karelzak/util-linux/issues.

AVAILABILITY

The column command is part of the util-linux package which can be downloaded from Linux

Kernel Archive <https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>.