

NAME

column — columnate lists

SYNOPSIS

column [**-entx**] [**-c** *columns*] [**-s** *sep*] [*file* ...]

DESCRIPTION

The **column** utility formats its input into multiple columns. Rows are filled before columns. Input is taken from *file* operands, or, by default, from the standard input. Empty lines are ignored unless the **-e** option is used.

The options are as follows:

- c** Output is formatted for a display *columns* wide.
- s** Specify a set of characters to be used to delimit columns for the **-t** option.
- t** 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 **-s** option. Useful for pretty-printing displays.
- x** Fill columns before filling rows.
- n** By default, the column command will merge multiple adjacent delimiters into a single delimiter when using the **-t** option; this option disables that behavior. This option is a Debian GNU/Linux extension.
- e** Do not ignore empty lines.

ENVIRONMENT

The COLUMNS, LANG, LC_ALL and LC_CTYPE environment variables affect the execution of **column** as described in [environ\(7\)](#).

EXIT STATUS

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

EXAMPLES

```
(printf "PERM LINKS OWNER GROUP SIZE MONTH DAY " ; \  
printf "HH:MM/YEAR NAME\n" ; \  
ls -l | sed 1d) | column -t
```

SEE ALSO

[colrm\(1\)](#), [ls\(1\)](#), [paste\(1\)](#), [sort\(1\)](#)

HISTORY

The **column** command appeared in 4.3BSD-Reno.

BUGS

Input lines are limited to 512 times LINE_MAX (1M) wide characters in length.