

**NAME**

mcookie – generate magic cookies for xauth

**SYNOPSIS**

**mcookie** [options]

**DESCRIPTION**

**mcookie** generates a 128-bit random hexadecimal number for use with the X authority system. Typical usage:

```
xauth add :0 . 'mcookie'
```

The "random" number generated is actually the MD5 message digest of random information coming from one of the sources *getrandom()* system call, */dev/urandom*, */dev/random*, or the *libc pseudo-random functions*, in this preference order. See also the option **--file**.

**OPTIONS**

**-f, --file file**

Use this *file* as an additional source of randomness (for example */dev/urandom*). When *file* is '-', characters are read from standard input.

**-m, --max-size number**

Read from *file* only this *number* of bytes. This option is meant to be used when reading additional randomness from a file or device.

The *number* argument may be followed by the multiplicative suffixes KiB=1024, MiB=1024\*1024, and so on for GiB, TiB, PiB, EiB, ZiB and YiB (the "iB" is optional, e.g., "K" has the same meaning as "KiB") or the suffixes KB=1000, MB=1000\*1000, and so on for GB, TB, PB, EB, ZB and YB.

**-v, --verbose**

Inform where randomness originated, with amount of entropy read from each source.

**-V, --version**

Display version information and exit.

**-h, --help**

Display help text and exit.

**BUGS**

It is assumed that none of the randomness sources will block.

**FILES**

*/dev/urandom*

*/dev/random*

**SEE ALSO**

**md5sum(1)**, **X(1)**, **xauth(1)**, **rand(3)**

**AVAILABILITY**

The mcookie command is part of the util-linux package and is available from Linux Kernel Archive (<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>).