

NAME

`openvt` – start a program on a new virtual terminal (VT).

SYNOPSIS

`openvt` [`-c` *vtnumber*] [**OPTIONS**] [`---`] *command*

DESCRIPTION

`openvt` will find the first available VT, and run on it the given **command** with the given **command options**, standard input, output and error are directed to that terminal. The current search path (\$PATH) is used to find the requested command. If no command is specified then the environment variable \$SHELL is used.

OPTIONS

`-c, --console=VTNUMBER`

Use the given VT number and not the first available. Note you must have write access to the supplied VT for this to work;

`-f, --force`

Force opening a VT without checking whether it is already in use;

`-e, --exec`

Directly execute the given command, without forking. This option is meant for use in */etc/inittab*. If you want to use this feature in another context, be aware that `openvt` has to be a session leader in order for `-e` to work. See `setsid(2)` or `setsid(1)` on how to achieve this.

`-s, --switch`

Switch to the new VT when starting the command. The VT of the new command will be made the new current VT;

`-u, --user`

Figure out the owner of the current VT, and run login as that user. Suitable to be called by `init`. Shouldn't be used with `-c` or `-l`;

`-l, --login`

Make the command a login shell. A `-` is prepended to the name of the command to be executed;

`-v, --verbose`

Be a bit more verbose;

`-w, --wait`

wait for command to complete. If `-w` and `-s` are used together then `openvt` will switch back to the controlling terminal when the command completes;

`-V, --version`

print program version and exit;

`-h, --help`

show this text and exit.

`--` end of options to `openvt`.

NOTE

If `openvt` is compiled with a `getopt_long()` and you wish to set options to the command to be run, then you must supply the end of options `---` flag before the command.

EXAMPLES

`openvt` can be used to start a shell on the next free VT, by using the command:

```
openvt bash
```

To start the shell as a login shell, use:

```
openvt -l bash
```

To get a long listing you must supply the `--` separator:

```
openvt -- ls -l
```

HISTORY

Earlier, **openvt** was called **open**. It was written by Jon Tombs <jon@gtex02.us.es or jon@robots.ox.ac.uk>. The `-w` idea is from "sam".

SEE ALSO

chvt(1), **doshell(8)**, **login(1)**