NAME

mkdbm − build a DBM file suitable for use by smail

SYNOPSIS

/usr/lib/smail/mkdbm [**−f**] [**−v**] [**−n**] [**−d**] [**−y**]
[**−o** *output-name*] [*file* ...]

DESCRIPTION

Mkdbm takes lines as input and writes them to a set of files in the format produced by the *dbm*(3X) function library. The key is formed from the characters up to, but not including, a colon (":") or white space character. The data after the colon or white space character forms the value associated with the key. If **−f** is given, the key is folded to lower case before being stored in the database.

If no input files are specified, the standard input is read. In addition, if a filename of **−** is given, the standard input is inserted at that point.

The **−o** option sets the name for the DBM database. If not specified explicitly, the name of the database is taken from the first *file* argument. If no *file* arguments are given, or the first file argument is **−** then a database is created in the current directory with the name *dbm*.

The *mkdbm* program can be used to produce DBM files which can then be read by a *smail*(8) pathalias router or aliasfile director. The router or directory should be configured to use the *dbm* file access protocol. See *smail*(5) for more information on routers and directors. For some databases, *mkline*(8) should be used to form single line records with comments and extra white-space removed.

The generated database contains a single nul byte at the end of each key and value. Also a single record containing "@" as a key and value is created for compatibility with the Berkeley *sendmail*(8) program's alias files. The ending nul bytes can be suppressed with the **−n** option, and the extra "@" record can be suppressed with the **−d** option. Use of **−n** is incompatible with the smail **dbm** file access method.

When creating the database, temporary DBM files are built in the same directory as the eventual output files. Then, when it is completed, any DBM files currently existing under the target name are removed, *mkdbm* sleeps between one and two seconds, and then the temporary DBM files are moved to the target names. This database creation method is not compatible with the locking method used by Berkeley *sendmail*.

If the **−v** flags is specified *mkdbm* writes statistics to the standard output.

The **−y** flag is used to create YP-compatible dbm files. This obviates the need for keeping sendmail around to recreate the YP alias database. Calling *mkdbm* with the arguments **−ynd** generates dbm files that are compatible with regular YP databases. Using just the argument **−y** generates a database that is compatible with the YP mail.alias database.

EXAMPLE

As an example of the use of *mkdbm* consider a file, *paths*, containing the routing information:

```
.COM            sun!%s
Stargate.COM    ames!cmcl2!uiucdcs!stargate!%s
ames            ames!%s
.ATT.COM        mtune!%s
mtune           mtune!%s
```

Given this file, the command *mkdbm -f paths* will produce a dbm database in the files *paths.pag* and *paths.dir* containing the above entries, with downcased keys. For example, one entry will contain the key *stargate.com* with an associated value of *ames!cmcl2!uiucdcs!stargate!%s*.

SEE ALSO

mkaliases(8), *mkline*(8), *mksort*(8), *smail*(5), *smail*(8), *pathalias*(8).

FILES

dbmXXXXXX.pag
dbmXXXXXX.dir The temporary files created in the same directory as the eventual output files.

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