NAME

merge − three-way file merge

SYNOPSIS

merge [*options*] *file1 file2 file3*

DESCRIPTION

merge incorporates all changes that lead from *file2* to *file3* into *file1*. The result ordinarily goes into *file1*. **merge** is useful for combining separate changes to an original. Suppose *file2* is the original, and both *file1* and *file3* are modifications of *file2*. Then **merge** combines both changes.

A conflict occurs if both *file1* and *file3* have changes in a common segment of lines. If a conflict is found, **merge** normally outputs a warning and brackets the conflict with **<<<<<<<** and **>>>>>>>** lines. A typical conflict will look like this:

<<<<<<< *file A*
lines in file A
=======
lines in file B
>>>>>>> *file B*

If there are conflicts, the user should edit the result and delete one of the alternatives.

OPTIONS

−A Output conflicts using the **−A** style of **diff3**(1), if supported by **diff3**. This merges all changes leading from *file2* to *file3* into *file1*, and generates the most verbose output.

−E, **−e** These options specify conflict styles that generate less information than **−A**. See **diff3**(1) for details. The default is **−E**. With **−e**, **merge** does not warn about conflicts.

−L *label*
This option may be given up to three times, and specifies labels to be used in place of the corresponding file names in conflict reports. That is, **merge −L x −L y −L z a b c** generates output that looks like it came from files **x**, **y** and **z** instead of from files **a**, **b** and **c**.

−p Send results to standard output instead of overwriting *file1*.

−q Quiet; do not warn about conflicts. **−V** Print ’s version number.

DIAGNOSTICS

Exit status is 0 for no conflicts, 1 for some conflicts, 2 for trouble.

IDENTIFICATION

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Manual Page Revision: 5.7; Release Date: 1995/06/01.

SEE ALSO

diff3(1), diff(1), rcsmerge(1), co(1).

BUGS

It normally does not make sense to merge binary files as if they were text, but **merge** tries to do it anyway.