NAME

descend − walk directory tree and execute a command at each node

SYNOPSIS

descend [**−afqrv**] *command* [*directory* . . .]

DESCRIPTION

descend walks down a directory tree and executes a command at each node. It is not as versatile as **find**(1), but it has a simpler syntax. If no *directory* is specified, **descend** starts at the current one.

Unlike **find**, **descend** can be told to skip the special directories associated with RCS, CVS, and SCCS. This makes **descend** especially handy for use with these packages. It can be used with other commands too, of course.

descend is a poor man's way to make any command recursive. Note: **descend** does not follow symbolic links to directories unless they are specified on the command line.

OPTIONS

−a *All.* Descend into directories that begin with '.'.

−f *Force.* Ignore errors during descent. Normally, **descend** quits when an error occurs.

−q *Quiet.* Suppress the message 'In directory *directory*' that is normally printed during the descent.

−r *Restricted.* Don't descend into the special directories **RCS, CVS, CVS.adm,** and **SCCS.**

−v *Verbose.* Print *command* before executing it.

EXAMPLES

descend ls Cheap substitute for 'ls -R'.

descend -f 'rm *' tree
Strip 'tree' of its leaves. This command descends the 'tree' directory, removing all regular files. Since **rm**(1) does not remove directories, this command leaves the directory structure of 'tree' intact, but denuded. The **−f** option is required to keep **descend** from quitting. You could use 'rm −f' instead.

descend -r 'co RCS/*' /project/src/
Check out every RCS file under the directory **/project/src**.

descend -r 'cvs diff'
Perform CVS 'diff' operation on every directory below (and including) the current one.

DIAGNOSTICS

Returns 1 if errors occur (and the **−f** option is not used). Otherwise returns 0.

SEE ALSO

find(1), **rcsintro**(1), **cvs**(1), **sccs**(1)

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BUGS

Shell metacharacters in *command* may have bizarre effects. In particular, compound commands (containing ';', '[', and ']' characters) will not work. It is best to enclose complicated commands in single quotes ´ ´.