

# **RCS-Docs**

Walter F. al and AmigaGuide translation JBHR

**COLLABORATORS**

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**REVISION HISTORY**

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

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# Chapter 1

## RCS-Docs

### 1.1 Revision Control System

RCS 5.6.0.1 - Revision Control System 5.6.0.1 for the Amiga  
\*\*\*\*\*

RCSINTRO  
introduction to RCS commands

Commands:

CI  
check in RCS revisions

CO  
check out RCS revisions

IDENT  
identify files

MERGE  
three-way file merge

RCS  
change RCS file attributes

RCSCLEAN  
clean up working files

RCSDIFF  
compare RCS revisions

RCSFREEZE  
freeze a configuration of sources checked in under RCS

RCSMERGE  
merge RCS revisions

---

```
RLOG
    print log messages and other information about RCS files
```

File format:

```
RCSFILE
    format of RCS file
```

## 1.2 RCSINTRO

NAME

rcsintro - introduction to RCS commands

### DESCRIPTION

The Revision Control System (RCS) manages multiple revisions of files. RCS automates the storing, retrieval, logging, identification, and merging of revisions. RCS is useful for text that is revised frequently, for example programs, documentation, graphics, papers, and form letters.

The basic user interface is extremely simple. The novice only needs to learn two commands:

```
ci
    and
co
    . ci, short
```

for "check in", deposits the contents of a file into an archival file called an RCS file. An RCS file contains all revisions of a particular file. co, short for "check out", retrieves revisions from an RCS file.

### Functions of RCS

- Store and retrieve multiple revisions of text. RCS saves all old revisions in a space efficient way. Changes no longer destroy the original, because the previous revisions remain accessible. Revisions can be retrieved according to ranges of revision numbers, symbolic names, dates, authors, and states.
- Maintain a complete history of changes. RCS logs all changes automatically. Besides the text of each revision, RCS stores the author, the date and time of check-in, and a log message summarizing the change. The logging makes it easy to find out what happened to a module, without having to compare source listings or having to track down colleagues.
- Resolve access conflicts. When two or more programmers wish to modify the same revision, RCS alerts the programmers and prevents one modification from corrupting the other.

- Maintain a tree of revisions. RCS can maintain separate lines of development for each module. It stores a tree structure that represents the ancestral relationships among revisions.
- Merge revisions and resolve conflicts. Two separate lines of development of a module can be coalesced by merging. If the revisions to be merged affect the same sections of code, RCS alerts the user about the overlapping changes.
- Control releases and configurations. Revisions can be assigned symbolic names and marked as released, stable, experimental, etc. With these facilities, configurations of modules can be described simply and directly.
- Automatically identify each revision with name, revision number, creation time, author, etc. The identification is like a stamp that can be embedded at an appropriate place in the text of a revision. The identification makes it simple to determine which revisions of which modules make up a given configuration.
- Minimize secondary storage. RCS needs little extra space for the revisions (only the differences). If intermediate revisions are deleted, the corresponding deltas are compressed accordingly.

#### Getting Started with RCS

Suppose you have a file `f.c` that you wish to put under control of RCS. If you have not already done so, make an RCS directory with the command

```
mkdir RCS
```

Then invoke the check-in command

```
ci f.c
```

This command creates an RCS file in the RCS directory, stores `f.c` into it as revision 1.1, and deletes `f.c`. It also asks you for a description. The description should be a synopsis of the contents of the file. All later check-in commands will ask you for a log entry, which should summarize the changes that you made.

Files in the RCS directory are called RCS files; the others are called working files. To get back the working file `f.c` in the previous example, use the check-out command

```
co f.c
```

This command extracts the latest revision from the RCS file and writes it into `f.c`. If you want to edit `f.c`, you must lock it as you check it out with the command

```
co -l f.c
```

You can now edit `f.c`.

Suppose after some editing you want to know what changes that you have made. The command

```
rcsdiff f.c
```

tells you the difference between the most recently checked-in version and the working file. You can check the file back in by invoking

```
ci f.c
```

This increments the revision number properly.

If `ci` complains with the message

```
ci error: no lock set by your name
```

then you have tried to check in a file even though you did not lock it when you checked it out. Of course, it is too late now to do the check-out with locking, because another check-out would overwrite your modifications. Instead, invoke

```
rscs -l f.c
```

This command will lock the latest revision for you, unless somebody else got ahead of you already. In this case, you'll have to negotiate with that person.

Locking assures that you, and only you, can check in the next update, and avoids nasty problems if several people work on the same file. Even if a revision is locked, it can still be checked out for reading, compiling, etc. All that locking prevents is a check-in by anybody but the locker.

If your RCS file is private, i.e., if you are the only person who is going to deposit revisions into it, strict locking is not needed and you can turn it off. If strict locking is turned off, the owner of the RCS file need not have a lock for check-in; all others still do. Turning strict locking off and on is done with the commands

```
rscs -U f.c      and      rscs -L f.c
```

If you don't want to clutter your working directory with RCS files, create a subdirectory called `RCS` in your working directory, and move all your RCS files there. RCS commands will look first into that directory to find needed files. All the commands discussed above will still work, without any modification. (Actually, pairs of RCS and working files can be specified in three ways: (a) both are given, (b) only the working file is given, (c) only the RCS file is given. Both RCS and working files may have arbitrary path prefixes;

---

RCS commands pair them up intelligently.)

To avoid the deletion of the working file during check-in (in case you want to continue editing or compiling), invoke

```
ci -l f.c      or      ci -u f.c
```

These commands check in `f.c` as usual, but perform an implicit check-out. The first form also locks the checked in revision, the second one doesn't. Thus, these options save you one check-out operation. The first form is useful if you want to continue editing, the second one if you just want to read the file. Both update the identification markers in your working file (see below).

You can give `ci` the number you want assigned to a checked in revision. Assume all your revisions were numbered 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, etc., and you would like to start release 2. The command

```
ci -r2 f.c      or      ci -r2.1 f.c
```

assigns the number 2.1 to the new revision. From then on, `ci` will number the subsequent revisions with 2.2, 2.3, etc. The corresponding `co` commands

```
co -r2 f.c      and      co -r2.1 f.c
```

retrieve the latest revision numbered 2.x and the revision 2.1, respectively. `co` without a revision number selects the latest revision on the trunk, i.e. the highest revision with a number consisting of two fields. Numbers with more than two fields are needed for branches. For example, to start a branch at revision 1.3, invoke

```
ci -r1.3.1 f.c
```

This command starts a branch numbered 1 at revision 1.3, and assigns the number 1.3.1.1 to the new revision. For more information about branches, see

`rcsfile`

.

#### Automatic Identification

RCS can put special strings for identification into your source and object code. To obtain such identification, place the marker

```
$Id$
```

into your text, for instance inside a comment. RCS will replace this marker with a string of the form

```
$Id: filename revision date time author state $
```

With such a marker on the first page of each module, you can always see with which revision you are working. RCS keeps



the markers up to date automatically. To propagate the markers into your object code, simply put them into literal character strings. In C, this is done as follows:

```
static char rcsid[] = "$Id$";
```

The command `ident` extracts such markers from any file, even object code and dumps. Thus, `ident` lets you find out which revisions of which modules were used in a given program.

You may also find it useful to put the marker `$Log$` into your text, inside a comment. This marker accumulates the log messages that are requested during check-in. Thus, you can maintain the complete history of your file directly inside it. There are several additional identification markers; see

```
co
for details.
```

#### IDENTIFICATION

Author: Walter F. Tichy.  
Revision Number: 5.1; Release Date: 1991/04/21.  
Copyright © 1982, 1988, 1989 by Walter F. Tichy.  
Copyright © 1990, 1991 by Paul Eggert.

#### SEE ALSO

```
co
,
ci
,
ident
,
rcs
,
rcsdiff
,
rcsintro
,
rcsmerge
,
rlog
```

Walter F. Tichy, *RCS--A System for Version Control*,  
*Software--Practice & Experience* 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.

## 1.3 CI

#### NAME

`ci` - check in RCS revisions

#### SYNOPSIS

```
ci [options] file ...
```

#### DESCRIPTION

---

ci stores new revisions into RCS files. Each pathname matching an RCS suffix is taken to be an RCS file. All others are assumed to be working files containing new revisions. ci deposits the contents of each working file into the corresponding RCS file. If only a working file is given, ci tries to find the corresponding RCS file in an RCS subdirectory and then in the working file's directory. For more details, see FILE NAMING below.

For ci to work, the caller's login must be on the access list, except if the access list is empty or the caller is the superuser or the owner of the file. To append a new revision to an existing branch, the tip revision on that branch must be locked by the caller. Otherwise, only a new branch can be created. This restriction is not enforced for the owner of the file if non-strict locking is used (see

    rcs  
    ). A lock held by someone else may be broken with the rcs command.

Unless the -f option is given, ci checks whether the revision to be deposited differs from the preceding one. If not, instead of creating a new revision ci reverts to the preceding one. To revert, ordinary ci removes the working file and any lock; ci -l keeps and ci -u removes any lock, and then they both generate a new working file much as if co -l or co -u had been applied to the preceding revision. When reverting, any -n and -s options apply to the preceding revision.

For each revision deposited, ci prompts for a log message. The log message should summarize the change and must be terminated by end-of-file or by a line containing . by itself. If several files are checked in ci asks whether to reuse the previous log message. If the standard input is not a terminal, ci suppresses the prompt and uses the same log message for all files. See also -m.

If the RCS file does not exist, ci creates it and deposits the contents of the working file as the initial revision (default number: 1.1). The access list is initialized to empty. Instead of the log message, ci requests descriptive text (see -t below).

The number rev of the deposited revision can be given by any of the options -f, -I, -k, -l, -M, -q, -r, or -u. rev may be symbolic, numeric, or mixed. If rev is \$, ci determines the revision number from keyword values in the working file.

If rev is a revision number, it must be higher than the latest one on the branch to which rev belongs, or must start a new branch.

If rev is a branch rather than a revision number, the new revision is appended to that branch. The level number is obtained by incrementing the tip revision number of that

branch. If `rev` indicates a non-existing branch, that branch is created with the initial revision numbered `rev.1`.

If `rev` is omitted, `ci` tries to derive the new revision number from the caller's last lock. If the caller has locked the tip revision of a branch, the new revision is appended to that branch. The new revision number is obtained by incrementing the tip revision number. If the caller locked a non-tip revision, a new branch is started at that revision by incrementing the highest branch number at that revision. The default initial branch and level numbers are 1.

If `rev` is omitted and the caller has no lock, but owns the file and locking is not set to `strict`, then the revision is appended to the default branch (normally the trunk; see the `-b` option of `rcs`).

Exception: On the trunk, revisions can be appended to the end, but not inserted.

#### OPTIONS

`-r[rev]`

checks in a revision, releases the corresponding lock, and removes the working file. This is the default.

The `-r` option has an unusual meaning in `ci`. In other RCS commands, `-r` merely specifies a revision number, but in `ci` it also releases a lock and removes the working file. See `-u` for a tricky example.

`-l[rev]`

works like `-r`, except it performs an additional `co -l` for the deposited revision. Thus, the deposited revision is immediately checked out again and locked. This is useful for saving a revision although one wants to continue editing it after the checkin.

`-u[rev]`

works like `-l`, except that the deposited revision is not locked. This lets one read the working file immediately after checkin.

The `-l`, `-r`, and `-u` options are mutually exclusive and silently override each other. For example, `ci -u -r` is equivalent to `ci -r` because `-r` overrides `-u`.

`-f[rev]`

forces a deposit; the new revision is deposited even it is not different from the preceding one.

`-k[rev]`

searches the working file for keyword values to determine its revision number, creation date, state, and author (see

- co  
) , and assigns these values to the deposited revision, rather than computing them locally. It also generates a default login message noting the login of the caller and the actual checkin date. This option is useful for software distribution. A revision that is sent to several sites should be checked in with the `-k` option at these sites to preserve the original number, date, author, and state. The extracted keyword values and the default log message may be overridden with the options `-d`, `-m`, `-s`, `-w`, and any option that carries a revision number.
- `-q[rev]`  
quiet mode; diagnostic output is not printed. A revision that is not different from the preceding one is not deposited, unless `-f` is given.
- `-I[rev]`  
interactive mode; the user is prompted and questioned even if the standard input is not a terminal.
- `-d[date]`  
uses date for the checkin date and time. The date is specified in free format as explained in  
co  
. This is useful for lying about the checkin date, and for `-k` if no date is available. If date is empty, the working file's time of last modification is used.
- `-M[rev]`  
Set the modification time on any new working file to be the date of the retrieved revision. For example, `ci -d -M -u f` does not alter `f`'s modification time, even if `f`'s contents change due to keyword substitution. Use this option with care; it can confuse make.
- `-mmsg`  
uses the string `msg` as the log message for all revisions checked in.
- `-nname`  
assigns the symbolic name `name` to the number of the checked-in revision. `ci` prints an error message if `name` is already assigned to another number.
- `-Nname`  
same as `-n`, except that it overrides a previous assignment of `name`.
- `-sstate`  
sets the state of the checked-in revision to the identifier `state`. The default state is `Exp`.
- `-tfile`
-

writes descriptive text from the contents of the named file into the RCS file, deleting the existing text. The file may not begin with -.

**-t-string**

Write descriptive text from the string into the RCS file, deleting the existing text.

The **-t** option, in both its forms, has effect only during an initial checkin; it is silently ignored otherwise.

During the initial checkin, if **-t** is not given, **ci** obtains the text from standard input, terminated by end-of-file or by a line containing **.** by itself. The user is prompted for the text if interaction is possible; see **-I**.

For backward compatibility with older versions of RCS, a bare **-t** option is ignored.

**-wlogin**

uses login for the author field of the deposited revision. Useful for lying about the author, and for **-k** if no author is available.

**-Vn** Emulate RCS version n. See

**co**  
for details.

**-xsuffixes**

specifies the suffixes for RCS files. A nonempty suffix matches any pathname ending in the suffix. An empty suffix matches any pathname of the form **RCS/file** or **path/RCS/file**. The **-x** option can specify a list of suffixes separated by **/**. For example, **-x,v/** specifies two suffixes: **,v** and the empty suffix. If two or more suffixes are specified, they are tried in order when looking for an RCS file; the first one that works is used for that file. If no RCS file is found but an RCS file can be created, the suffixes are tried in order to determine the new RCS file's name. The default for suffixes is installation-dependent; normally it is **,v/** for hosts like Unix that permit commas in file names, and is empty (i.e. just the empty suffix) for other hosts.

## FILE NAMING

Pairs of RCS files and working files may be specified in three ways (see also the example section).

1) Both the RCS file and the working file are given. The RCS pathname is of the form **path1/workfileX** and the working pathname is of the form **path2/workfile** where **path1/** and **path2/** are (possibly different or empty) paths, **workfile** is a filename, and **X** is an RCS suffix. If **X** is empty, **path1/** must be **RCS/** or must end in **/RCS/**.

---

2) Only the RCS file is given. Then the working file is created in the current directory and its name is derived from the name of the RCS file by removing path1/ and the suffix X.

3) Only the working file is given. Then ci considers each RCS suffix X in turn, looking for an RCS file of the form path2/RCS/workfileX or (if the former is not found and X is nonempty) path2/workfileX.

If the RCS file is specified without a path in 1) and 2), ci looks for the RCS file first in the directory ./RCS and then in the current directory.

ci reports an error if an attempt to open an RCS file fails for an unusual reason, even if the RCS file's pathname is just one of several possibilities. For example, to suppress use of RCS commands in a directory d, create a regular file named d/RCS so that casual attempts to use RCS commands in d fail because d/RCS is not a directory.

#### EXAMPLES

Suppose ,v is an RCS suffix and the current directory contains a subdirectory RCS with an RCS file io.c,v. Then each of the following commands check in a copy of io.c into RCS/io.c,v as the latest revision, removing io.c.

```
ci io.c;      ci RCS/io.c,v;  ci io.c,v;
ci io.c RCS/io.c,v;  ci io.c io.c,v;
ci RCS/io.c,v io.c;  ci io.c,v io.c;
```

Suppose instead that the empty suffix is an RCS suffix and the current directory contains a subdirectory RCS with an RCS file io.c. The each of the following commands checks in a new revision.

#### FILE MODES

An RCS file created by ci inherits the read and execute permissions from the working file. If the RCS file exists already, ci preserves its read and execute permissions. ci always turns off all write permissions of RCS files.

#### FILES

Several temporary files may be created in the directory containing the working file, and also in the temporary directory (see TMPDIR under ENVIRONMENT). A semaphore file or files are created in the directory containing the RCS file. With a nonempty suffix, the semaphore names begin with the first character of the suffix; therefore, do not specify an suffix whose first character could be that of a working filename. With an empty suffix, the semaphore names end with \_ so working filenames should not end in \_.

ci never changes an RCS or working file. Normally, ci unlinks the file and creates a new one; but instead of breaking a chain of one or more symbolic links to an RCS

file, it unlinks the destination file instead. Therefore, `ci` breaks any hard or symbolic links to any working file it changes; and hard links to RCS files are ineffective, but symbolic links to RCS files are preserved.

The effective user must be able to search and write the directory containing the RCS file. Normally, the real user must be able to read the RCS and working files and to search and write the directory containing the working file; however, some older hosts cannot easily switch between real and effective users, so on these hosts the effective user is used for all accesses. The effective user is the same as the real user unless your copies of `ci` and `co` have `setuid` privileges. As described in the next section, these privileges yield extra security if the effective user owns all RCS files and directories, and if only the effective user can write RCS directories.

Users can control access to RCS files by setting the permissions of the directory containing the files; only users with write access to the directory can use RCS commands to change its RCS files. For example, in hosts that allow a user to belong to several groups, one can make a group's RCS directories writable to that group only. This approach suffices for informal projects, but it means that any group member can arbitrarily change the group's RCS files, and can even remove them entirely. Hence more formal projects sometimes distinguish between an RCS administrator, who can change the RCS files at will, and other project members, who can check in new revisions but cannot otherwise change the RCS files.

## ENVIRONMENT

### RCSINIT

options prepended to the argument list, separated by spaces. A backslash escapes spaces within an option. The RCSINIT options are prepended to the argument lists of most RCS commands. Useful RCSINIT options include `-q`, `-V`, and `-x`.

### TMPDIR

Name of the temporary directory. If not set, the environment variables `TMP` and `TEMP` are inspected instead and the first value found is taken; if none of them are set, a host-dependent default is used, typically `/tmp`.

## DIAGNOSTICS

For each revision, `ci` prints the RCS file, the working file, and the number of both the deposited and the preceding revision. The exit status is zero if and only if all operations were successful.

## IDENTIFICATION

Author: Walter F. Tichy.

Revision Number: 5.9; Release Date: 1991/10/07.

Copyright © 1982, 1988, 1989 by Walter F. Tichy.

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---

SEE ALSO

```

co
,
ident
, make,
rcs
,
rcsclean
,
rcsdiff
,
rcsintro
,
rcsmerge
,
rlog
,
rcsfile

```

Walter F. Tichy, RCS--A System for Version Control, Software--Practice & Experience 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.

## 1.4 CO

NAME

co - check out RCS revisions

SYNOPSIS

```
co [options] file ...
```

DESCRIPTION

co retrieves a revision from each RCS file and stores it into the corresponding working file.

Pathnames matching an RCS suffix denote RCS files; all others denote working files. Names are paired as explained in

```

ci
.

```

Revisions of an RCS file may be checked out locked or unlocked. Locking a revision prevents overlapping updates. A revision checked out for reading or processing (e.g., compiling) need not be locked. A revision checked out for editing and later checkin must normally be locked. Checkout with locking fails if the revision to be checked out is currently locked by another user. (A lock may be broken with

```
rcs
```

.) Checkout with locking also requires the caller to be on the access list of the RCS file, unless he is the owner of the file or the superuser, or the access list is



empty. Checkout without locking is not subject to access-list restrictions, and is not affected by the presence of locks.

A revision is selected by options for revision or branch number, checkin date/time, author, or state. When the selection options are applied in combination, `co` retrieves the latest revision that satisfies all of them. If none of the selection options is specified, `co` retrieves the latest revision on the default branch (normally the trunk, see the `-b` option of

`rcs`

) . A revision or branch number may be

attached to any of the options `-f`, `-I`, `-l`, `-M`, `-p`, `-q`, `-r`, or `-u`. The options `-d` (date), `-s` (state), and `-w` (author) retrieve from a single branch, the selected branch, which is either specified by one of `-f`, ..., `-u`, or the default branch.

A `co` command applied to an RCS file with no revisions creates a zero-length working file. `co` always performs keyword substitution (see below).

## OPTIONS

`-r[rev]`

retrieves the latest revision whose number is less than or equal to `rev`. If `rev` indicates a branch rather than a revision, the latest revision on that branch is retrieved. If `rev` is omitted, the latest revision on the default branch (see the `-b` option of

`rcs`

) is

retrieved. If `rev` is `$`, `co` determines the revision number from keyword values in the working file. Otherwise, a revision is composed of one or more numeric or symbolic fields separated by periods. The numeric equivalent of a symbolic field is specified with the `-n` option of the commands

`ci`

and

`rcs`

.

`-l[rev]`

same as `-r`, except that it also locks the retrieved revision for the caller.

`-u[rev]`

same as `-r`, except that it unlocks the retrieved revision if it was locked by the caller. If `rev` is omitted, `-u` retrieves the revision locked by the caller, if there is one; otherwise, it retrieves the latest revision on the default branch.

`-f[rev]`

forces the overwriting of the working file; useful in connection with `-q`. See also FILE MODES below.

- `-kkv` Generate keyword strings using the default form, e.g. `$Revision: 5.7 $` for the Revision keyword. A locker's name is inserted in the value of the Header, Id, and Locker keyword strings only as a file is being locked, i.e. by `ci -l` and `co -l`. This is the default.
- `-kkvl`  
Like `-kkv`, except that a locker's name is always inserted if the given revision is currently locked.
- `-kk` Generate only keyword names in keyword strings; omit their values. See KEYWORD SUBSTITUTION below. For example, for the Revision keyword, generate the string `$Revision$` instead of `$Revision: 5.7 $`. This option is useful to ignore differences due to keyword substitution when comparing different revisions of a file.
- `-ko` Generate the old keyword string, present in the working file just before it was checked in. For example, for the Revision keyword, generate the string `$Revision: 1.1 $` instead of `$Revision: 5.7 $` if that is how the string appeared when the file was checked in. This can be useful for binary file formats that cannot tolerate any changes to substrings that happen to take the form of keyword strings.
- `-kv` Generate only keyword values for keyword strings. For example, for the Revision keyword, generate the string `5.7` instead of `$Revision: 5.7 $`. This can help generate files in programming languages where it is hard to strip keyword delimiters like `$Revision: $` from a string. However, further keyword substitution cannot be performed once the keyword names are removed, so this option should be used with care. Because of this danger of losing keywords, this option cannot be combined with `-l`, and the owner write permission of the working file is turned off; to edit the file later, check it out again without `-kv`.
- `-p[rev]`  
prints the retrieved revision on the standard output rather than storing it in the working file. This option is useful when `co` is part of a pipe.
- `-q[rev]`  
quiet mode; diagnostics are not printed.
- `-I[rev]`  
interactive mode; the user is prompted and questioned even if the standard input is not a terminal.
- `-ddate`  
retrieves the latest revision on the selected branch whose checkin date/time is less than or equal to date. The date and time may be given in free format. The time zone LT stands for local time; other common time
-

zone names are understood. For example, the following dates are equivalent if local time is January 11, 1990, 8pm Pacific Standard Time, eight hours west of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC):

```
8:00 pm lt
4:00 AM, Jan. 12, 1990      note: default is UTC
1990/01/12 04:00:00        RCS date format
Thu Jan 11 20:00:00 1990 LT  output of ctime + LT
Thu Jan 11 20:00:00 PST 1990  output of date
Fri Jan 12 04:00:00 GMT 1990
Thu, 11 Jan 1990 20:00:00 -0800
Fri-JST, 1990, 1pm Jan 12
12-January-1990, 04:00-WET
```

Most fields in the date and time may be defaulted. The default time zone is UTC. The other defaults are determined in the order year, month, day, hour, minute, and second (most to least significant). At least one of these fields must be provided. For omitted fields that are of higher significance than the highest provided field, the time zone's current values are assumed. For all other omitted fields, the lowest possible values are assumed. For example, the date 20, 10:30 defaults to 10:30:00 UTC of the 20th of the UTC time zone's current month and year. The date/time must be quoted if it contains spaces.

`-M[rev]`

Set the modification time on the new working file to be the date of the retrieved revision. Use this option with care; it can confuse make.

`-sstate`

retrieves the latest revision on the selected branch whose state is set to state.

`-w[login]`

retrieves the latest revision on the selected branch which was checked in by the user with login name login. If the argument login is omitted, the caller's login is assumed.

`-jjoinlist`

generates a new revision which is the join of the revisions on joinlist. This option is largely obsoleted by

`rcsmerge`

but is retained for backwards compatibility.

The joinlist is a comma-separated list of pairs of the form `rev2:rev3`, where `rev2` and `rev3` are (symbolic or numeric) revision numbers. For the initial such pair, `rev1` denotes the revision selected by the above options `-f`, `...`, `-w`. For all other pairs, `rev1` denotes the revision generated by the previous pair. (Thus, the output of one join becomes the input to the next.)

For each pair, `co` joins revisions `rev1` and `rev3` with respect to `rev2`. This means that all changes that transform `rev2` into `rev1` are applied to a copy of `rev3`. This is particularly useful if `rev1` and `rev3` are the ends of two branches that have `rev2` as a common ancestor. If `rev1 < rev2 < rev3` on the same branch, joining generates a new revision which is like `rev3`, but with all changes that lead from `rev1` to `rev2` undone. If changes from `rev2` to `rev1` overlap with changes from `rev2` to `rev3`, `co` reports overlaps as described in

```
merge
```

```
.
```

For the initial pair, `rev2` may be omitted. The default is the common ancestor. If any of the arguments indicate branches, the latest revisions on those branches are assumed. The options `-l` and `-u` lock or unlock `rev1`.

`-Vn` Emulate RCS version `n`, where `n` may be 3, 4, or 5. This may be useful when interchanging RCS files with others who are running older versions of RCS. To see which version of RCS your correspondents are running, have them invoke `rlog` on an RCS file; if none of the first few lines of output contain the string `branch:` it is version 3; if the dates' years have just two digits, it is version 4; otherwise, it is version 5. An RCS file generated while emulating version 3 will lose its default branch. An RCS revision generated while emulating version 4 or earlier will have a timestamp that is off by up to 13 hours. A revision extracted while emulating version 4 or earlier will contain dates of the form `yy/mm/dd` instead of `yyyy/mm/dd` and may also contain different white space in the substitution for `$Log$`.

`-xsuffixes`

Use suffixes to characterize RCS files. See

```
ci
```

```
for de-
```

```
tails.
```

#### KEYWORD SUBSTITUTION

Strings of the form `$keyword$` and `$keyword:...$` embedded in the text are replaced with strings of the form `$keyword:value$` where `keyword` and `value` are pairs listed below. Keywords may be embedded in literal strings or comments to identify a revision.

Initially, the user enters strings of the form `$keyword$`. On checkout, `co` replaces these strings with strings of the form `$keyword:value$`. If a revision containing strings of the latter form is checked back in, the value fields will be replaced during the next checkout. Thus, the keyword values are automatically updated on checkout. This automatic sub-

stitution can be modified by the `-k` options.

Keywords and their corresponding values:

`$Author$`

The login name of the user who checked in the revision.

`$Date$`

The date and time (UTC) the revision was checked in.

`$Header$`

A standard header containing the full pathname of the RCS file, the revision number, the date (UTC), the author, the state, and the locker (if locked).

`$Id$` Same as `$Header$`, except that the RCS filename is without a path.

`$Locker$`

The login name of the user who locked the revision (empty if not locked).

`$Log$`

The log message supplied during checkin, preceded by a header containing the RCS filename, the revision number, the author, and the date (UTC). Existing log messages are not replaced. Instead, the new log message is inserted after `$Log:...$`. This is useful for accumulating a complete change log in a source file.

`$RCSfile$`

The name of the RCS file without a path.

`$Revision$`

The revision number assigned to the revision.

`$Source$`

The full pathname of the RCS file.

`$State$`

The state assigned to the revision with the `-s` option of

rcs  
or  
ci  
.

#### FILE MODES

The working file inherits the read and execute permissions from the RCS file. In addition, the owner write permission is turned on, unless `-kv` is set or the file is checked out unlocked and locking is set to strict (see

rcs  
).

If a file with the name of the working file exists already and has write permission, `co` aborts the checkout, asking

beforehand if possible. If the existing working file is not writable or `-f` is given, the working file is deleted without asking.

#### FILES

`co` accesses files much as  
`ci`  
does, except that it does not  
need to read the working file.

#### ENVIRONMENT

`RCSINIT`  
options prepended to the argument list, separated by  
spaces. See  
`ci`  
for details.

#### DIAGNOSTICS

The RCS pathname, the working pathname, and the revision number retrieved are written to the diagnostic output. The exit status is zero if and only if all operations were successful.

#### IDENTIFICATION

Author: Walter F. Tichy.  
Revision Number: 5.7; Release Date: 1991/08/19.  
Copyright © 1982, 1988, 1989 by Walter F. Tichy.  
Copyright © 1990, 1991 by Paul Eggert.

#### SEE ALSO

`ci`  
, `ctime`,  
`ident`  
, `make`,  
`rcs`  
,  
  
`rcsdiff`  
,  
`rcsintro`  
,  
`rcsmerge`  
,  
`rlog`  
,  
`rfile`

Walter F. Tichy, *RCS--A System for Version Control*,  
*Software--Practice & Experience* 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.

#### LIMITS

Links to the RCS and working files are not preserved.

There is no way to selectively suppress the expansion of keywords, except by writing them differently. In `nroff` and `troff`, this is done by embedding the null-character `\&` into the keyword.

---

## BUGS

The `-d` option sometimes gets confused, and accepts no date before 1970.

## 1.5 IDENT

NAME

`ident` - identify files

## SYNOPSIS

```
ident [ -q ] [ file ... ]
```

## DESCRIPTION

`ident` searches for all occurrences of the pattern `$keyword:...$` in the named files or, if no file name appears, the standard input.

These patterns are normally inserted automatically by the RCS command

```
co
```

, but can also be inserted manually. The option `-q` suppresses the warning given if there are no patterns in a file.

`ident` works on text files as well as object files and dumps. For example, if the C program in `f.c` contains

```
char rcsid[] = "$Id: f.c,v 5.0 1990/08/22 09:09:36
eggert Exp $";
```

and `f.c` is compiled into `f.o`, then the command

```
ident f.c f.o
```

will output

```
f.c:
  $Id: f.c,v 5.0 1990/08/22 09:09:36 eggert Exp $
f.o:
  $Id: f.c,v 5.0 1990/08/22 09:09:36 eggert Exp $
```

## IDENTIFICATION

Author: Walter F. Tichy.

Revision Number: 5.0; Release Date: 1990/08/22.

Copyright © 1982, 1988, 1989 by Walter F. Tichy.

Copyright © 1990 by Paul Eggert.

## SEE ALSO

```
ci
,
co
,
rcs
```

```

,
rcsdiff
,
rcsintro
,
rcsmerge
,
rlog
,
rcsfile

```

Walter F. Tichy, RCS--A System for Version Control,  
Software--Practice & Experience 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.

## 1.6 MERGE

NAME

merge - three-way file merge

SYNOPSIS

```
merge [ -L label1 [ -L label3 ] ] [ -p ] [ -q ] file1 file2
file3
```

DESCRIPTION

merge incorporates all changes that lead from file2 to file3 into file1. The result goes to standard output if -p is present, into file1 otherwise. 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.

An overlap occurs if both file1 and file3 have changes in a common segment of lines. On a few older hosts where diff3 does not support the -E option, merge does not detect overlaps, and merely supplies the changed lines from file3. On most hosts, if overlaps occur, merge outputs a message (unless the -q option is given), and includes both alternatives in the result. The alternatives are delimited as follows:

```

<<<<<<< file1
lines in file1
=====
lines in file3
>>>>>>> file3

```

If there are overlaps, the user should edit the result and delete one of the alternatives. If the -L label1 and -L label3 options are given, the labels are output in place of the names file1 and file3 in overlap reports.

DIAGNOSTICS

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



## IDENTIFICATION

Author: Walter F. Tichy.  
Revision Number: 5.3; Release Date: 1991/02/28.  
Copyright © 1982, 1988, 1989 by Walter F. Tichy.  
Copyright © 1990, 1991 by Paul Eggert.

## SEE ALSO

diff3, diff,  
rcsmerge  
,  
co  
.

## 1.7 RCS

## NAME

rcs - change RCS file attributes

## SYNOPSIS

rcs [ options ] file ...

## DESCRIPTION

rcs creates new RCS files or changes attributes of existing ones. An RCS file contains multiple revisions of text, an access list, a change log, descriptive text, and some control attributes. For rcs to work, the caller's login name must be on the access list, except if the access list is empty, the caller is the owner of the file or the superuser, or the `-i` option is present.

Pathnames matching an RCS suffix denote RCS files; all others denote working files. Names are paired as explained in

```
ci
. Revision numbers use the syntax described in
ci
.
```

## OPTIONS

`-i` Create and initialize a new RCS file, but do not deposit any revision. If the RCS file has no path prefix, try to place it first into the subdirectory `./RCS`, and then into the current directory. If the RCS file already exists, print an error message.

`-alogins`

Append the login names appearing in the comma-separated list `logins` to the access list of the RCS file.

`-Aoldfile`

Append the access list of `oldfile` to the access list of the RCS file.

`-e[logins]`

Erase the login names appearing in the comma-separated

list logins from the access list of the RCS file. If logins is omitted, erase the entire access list.

`-b[rev]`

Set the default branch to rev. If rev is omitted, the default branch is reset to the (dynamically) highest branch on the trunk.

`-cstring`

sets the comment leader to string. The comment leader is printed before every log message line generated by the keyword `$Log$` during checkout (see

`co`

`.`). This is

useful for programming languages without multi-line comments. An initial `ci`, or an `rcs -i` without `-c`, guesses the comment leader from the suffix of the working file.

`-ksubst`

Set the default keyword substitution to subst. The effect of keyword substitution is described in

`co`

`.`

Giving an explicit `-k` option to `co`, `rcsdiff`, and `rcsmerge` overrides this default. Beware `rcs -kv`, because `-kv` is incompatible with `co -l`. Use `rcs -kkv` to restore the normal default keyword substitution.

`-l[rev]`

Lock the revision with number rev. If a branch is given, lock the latest revision on that branch. If rev is omitted, lock the latest revision on the default branch. Locking prevents overlapping changes. A lock is removed with `ci` or `rcs -u` (see below).

`-u[rev]`

Unlock the revision with number rev. If a branch is given, unlock the latest revision on that branch. If rev is omitted, remove the latest lock held by the caller. Normally, only the locker of a revision may unlock it. Somebody else unlocking a revision breaks the lock. This causes a mail message to be sent to the original locker. The message contains a commentary solicited from the breaker. The commentary is terminated by end-of-file or by a line containing `.` by itself.

`-L`

Set locking to strict. Strict locking means that the owner of an RCS file is not exempt from locking for `checkin`. This option should be used for files that are shared.

`-U`

Set locking to non-strict. Non-strict locking means that the owner of a file need not lock a revision for `checkin`. This option should not be used for files that are shared. Whether default locking is strict is

---

determined by your system administrator, but it is normally strict.

`-mrev:msg`

Replace revision `rev`'s log message with `msg`.

`-nname[:[rev]]`

Associate the symbolic name `name` with the branch or revision `rev`. Delete the symbolic name if both `:` and `rev` are omitted; otherwise, print an error message if `name` is already associated with another number. If `rev` is symbolic, it is expanded before association. A `rev` consisting of a branch number followed by a `.` stands for the current latest revision in the branch. A `:` with an empty `rev` stands for the current latest revision on the default branch, normally the trunk. For example, `rcs -nname: RCS/#?` associates `name` with the current latest revision of all the named RCS files; this contrasts with `rcs -nname:$ RCS/#?` which associates `name` with the revision numbers extracted from keyword strings in the corresponding working files.

`-Nname[:[rev]]`

Act like `-n`, except override any previous assignment of `name`.

`-orange`

deletes ("outdates") the revisions given by `range`. A `range` consisting of a single revision number means that revision. A `range` consisting of a branch number means the latest revision on that branch. A `range` of the form `rev1:rev2` means revisions `rev1` to `rev2` on the same branch, `:rev` means from the beginning of the branch containing `rev` up to and including `rev`, and `rev:` means from revision `rev` to the end of the branch containing `rev`. None of the outdated revisions may have branches or locks.

`-q` Run quietly; do not print diagnostics.

`-I` Run interactively, even if the standard input is not a terminal.

`-sstate[:rev]`

Set the state attribute of the revision `rev` to `state`. If `rev` is a branch number, assume the latest revision on that branch. If `rev` is omitted, assume the latest revision on the default branch. Any identifier is acceptable for `state`. A useful set of states is `Exp` (for experimental), `Stab` (for stable), and `Rel` (for released). By default,

`ci`

sets the state of a revision to `Exp`.

`-t[file]`

Write descriptive text from the contents of the named file into the RCS file, deleting the existing text. The file pathname may not begin with `-`. If file is omitted, obtain the text from standard input, terminated by end-of-file or by a line containing `.` by itself. Prompt for the text if interaction is possible; see `-I`. With `-i`, descriptive text is obtained even if `-t` is not given.

`-t-string`

Write descriptive text from the string into the RCS file, deleting the existing text.

`-Vn` Emulate RCS version `n`. See

`co`  
for details.

`-xsuffixes`

Use suffixes to characterize RCS files. See  
`ci`  
for de-  
tails.

#### COMPATIBILITY

The `-brev` option generates an RCS file that cannot be parsed by RCS version 3 or earlier.

The `-ksubst` options (except `-kkv`) generate an RCS file that cannot be parsed by RCS version 4 or earlier.

Use `rsc -Vn` to make an RCS file acceptable to RCS version `n` by discarding information that would confuse version `n`.

RCS version 5.5 and earlier does not support the `-x` option, and requires a `,v` suffix on an RCS pathname.

#### FILES

`rsc` accesses files much as

`ci`  
does, except that it uses the effective user for all accesses, it does not write the working file or its directory, and it does not even read the working file unless a revision number of `$` is specified.

#### ENVIRONMENT

`RCSINIT`

options prepended to the argument list, separated by spaces. See

`ci`  
for details.

#### DIAGNOSTICS

The RCS pathname and the revisions outdated are written to the diagnostic output. The exit status is zero if and only if all operations were successful.

## IDENTIFICATION

Author: Walter F. Tichy.  
Revision Number: 5.6; Release Date: 1991/09/26.  
Copyright © 1982, 1988, 1989 by Walter F. Tichy.  
Copyright © 1990, 1991 by Paul Eggert.

## SEE ALSO

co  
,  
ci  
,  
ident  
,  
rcsdiff  
,  
rcsintro  
,  
  
rcsmerge  
,  
rlog  
,  
rcsfile

Walter F. Tichy, RCS--A System for Version Control,  
Software--Practice & Experience 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.

## BUGS

The separator for revision ranges in the `-o` option used to be `-` instead of `:`, but this leads to confusion when symbolic names contain `-`. For backwards compatibility `rcs -o` still supports the old `-` separator, but it warns about this obsolete use.

Symbolic names need not refer to existing revisions or branches. For example, the `-o` option does not remove symbolic names for the outdated revisions; you must use `-n` to remove the names.

## 1.8 RCSCLEAN

## NAME

`rcsclean` - clean up working files

## SYNOPSIS

`rcsclean` [options] [ file ... ]

## DESCRIPTION

`rcsclean` removes working files that were checked out and never modified. For each file given, `rcsclean` compares the working file and a revision in the corresponding RCS file. If it finds a difference, it does nothing. Otherwise, it first unlocks the revision if the `-u` option is given, and then removes the working file unless the working file is writable and the revision is locked. It logs its actions by

outputting the corresponding `rcs -u` and `rm -f` commands on the standard output.

If no file is given, all working files in the current directory are cleaned. Pathnames matching an RCS suffix denote RCS files; all others denote working files. Names are paired as explained in

```
ci
.
```

The number of the revision to which the working file is compared may be attached to any of the options `-n`, `-q`, `-r`, or `-u`. If no revision number is specified, then if the `-u` option is given and the caller has one revision locked, `rcsclean` uses that revision; otherwise `rcsclean` uses the latest revision on the default branch, normally the root.

`rcsclean` is useful for clean targets in Makefiles. See also

```
rcsdiff
, which prints out the differences, and
ci
, which
```

normally asks whether to check in a file if it was not changed.

#### OPTIONS

`-ksubst`

Use subst style keyword substitution when retrieving the revision for comparison. See

```
co
for details.
```

`-n[rev]`

Do not actually remove any files or unlock any revisions. Using this option will tell you what `rcsclean` would do without actually doing it.

`-q[rev]`

Do not log the actions taken on standard output.

`-r[rev]`

This option has no effect other than specifying the revision for comparison.

`-u[rev]`

Unlock the revision if it is locked and no difference is found.

`-Vn` Emulate RCS version `n`. See

```
co
for details.
```

`-xsuffixes`

Use suffixes to characterize RCS files. See

```
ci
for de-
```

tails.

#### EXAMPLES

```
rcsclean #?.c #?.h
```

removes all working files ending in .c or .h that were not changed since their checkout.

```
rcsclean
```

removes all working files in the current directory that were not changed since their checkout.

#### FILES

rcsclean accesses files much as  
ci  
does.

#### ENVIRONMENT

##### RCSINIT

options prepended to the argument list, separated by spaces. A backslash escapes spaces within an option. The RCSINIT options are prepended to the argument lists of most RCS commands. Useful RCSINIT options include -q, -V, and -x.

#### DIAGNOSTICS

The exit status is zero if and only if all operations were successful. Missing working files and RCS files are silently ignored.

#### IDENTIFICATION

Author: Walter F. Tichy.  
Revision Number: 1.8; Release Date: 1991/11/03.  
Copyright © 1982, 1988, 1989 by Walter F. Tichy.  
Copyright © 1990, 1991 by Paul Eggert.

#### SEE ALSO

```
co  
,  
ci  
,  
ident  
,  
rcs  
,  
rcsdiff  
,  
rcsintro  
,  
  
rcsmerge  
,  
rlog  
,  
rcsfile
```

Walter F. Tichy, RCS--A System for Version Control,  
Software--Practice & Experiences 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.

## BUGS

At least one file must be given in older Unix versions that do not provide the needed directory scanning operations.

## 1.9 RCSDIFF

### NAME

rcsdiff - compare RCS revisions

### SYNOPSIS

```
rcsdiff [ -ksubst ] [ -q ] [ -rrev1 [ -rrev2 ] ] [ -Vn ] [
-xsuffixes ] [ diff options ] file ...
```

### DESCRIPTION

rcsdiff runs diff to compare two revisions of each RCS file given.

Pathnames matching an RCS suffix denote RCS files; all others denote working files. Names are paired as explained in

```
ci
.
```

The option -q suppresses diagnostic output. Zero, one, or two revisions may be specified with -r. The option -ksubst affects keyword substitution when extracting revisions, as described in

```
co
```

```
; for example, -kk -r1.1 -r1.2 ignores
```

differences in keyword values when comparing revisions 1.1 and 1.2. To avoid excess output from locker name substitution, -kkvl is assumed if (1) at most one revision option is given, (2) no -k option is given, (3) -kkv is the default keyword substitution, and (4) the working file's mode would be produced by co -l. See

```
co
```

```
for details about -V and -x.
```

Otherwise, all options of diff that apply to regular files are accepted, with the same meaning as for diff.

If both rev1 and rev2 are omitted, rcsdiff compares the latest revision on the default branch (by default the trunk) with the contents of the corresponding working file. This is useful for determining what you changed since the last checkin.

If rev1 is given, but rev2 is omitted, rcsdiff compares revision rev1 of the RCS file with the contents of the corresponding working file.

If both rev1 and rev2 are given, rcsdiff compares revisions rev1 and rev2 of the RCS file.



Both rev1 and rev2 may be given numerically or symbolically.

#### EXAMPLE

The command

```
rcsdiff f.c
```

compares the latest revision on the default branch of the RCS file to the contents of the working file f.c.

#### ENVIRONMENT

##### RCSINIT

options prepended to the argument list, separated by spaces. See `ci` for details.

#### DIAGNOSTICS

Exit status is 0 for no differences during any comparison, 1 for some differences, 2 for trouble.

#### IDENTIFICATION

Author: Walter F. Tichy.

Revision Number: 5.3; Release Date: 1991/04/21.

Copyright © 1982, 1988, 1989 by Walter F. Tichy.

Copyright © 1990, 1991 by Paul Eggert.

#### SEE ALSO

```
co
,
ci
, diff,
ident
,
rcs
,
rcsintro
,
rcsmerge
,
rlog
```

Walter F. Tichy, *RCS--A System for Version Control*, *Software--Practice & Experience* 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.

## 1.10 RCSFREEZE

##### NAME

`rcsfreeze` - freeze a configuration of sources checked in under RCS

#### SYNOPSIS

```
rcsfreeze [name]
```

---

## DESCRIPTION

rcsfreeze assigns a symbolic revision number to a set of RCS files that form a valid configuration.

The idea is to run rcsfreeze each time a new version is checked in. A unique symbolic name (C\_number, where number is increased each time rcsfreeze is run) is then assigned to the most recent revision of each RCS file of the main trunk.

An optional name argument to rcsfreeze gives a symbolic name to the configuration. The unique identifier is still generated and is listed in the log file but it will not appear as part of the symbolic revision name in the actual RCS files.

A log message is requested from the user for future reference.

The shell script works only on all RCS files at one time. All changed files must be checked in already. Run

```
rcsclean
first and see whether any sources remain in the
current directory.
```

## FILES

RCS/.rcsfreeze.ver  
version number

RCS/.rcsfreeze.log  
log messages, most recent first

## AUTHOR

Stephan v. Bechtolsheim

## SEE ALSO

```
co
,
rcs
,
rcsclean
,
rlog
BUGS
```

rcsfreeze does not check whether any sources are checked out and modified.

Although both source file names and RCS file names are accepted, they are not paired as usual with RCS commands.

Error checking is rudimentary.

rcsfreeze is just an optional example shell script, and should not be taken too seriously. See CVS for a more complete solution.

---

## 1.11 RCSMERGE

NAME

rscmerge - merge RCS revisions

SYNOPSIS

rscmerge [options] file

DESCRIPTION

rscmerge incorporates the changes between two revisions of an RCS file into the corresponding working file.

Pathnames matching an RCS suffix denote RCS files; all others denote working files. Names are paired as explained in

```
ci
.
```

At least one revision must be specified with one of the options described below, usually `-r`. At most two revisions may be specified. If only one revision is specified, the latest revision on the default branch (normally the highest branch on the trunk) is assumed for the second revision. Revisions may be specified numerically or symbolically.

rscmerge prints a warning if there are overlaps, and delimits the overlapping regions as explained in

```
merge
.
```

The `command` is useful for incorporating changes into a checked-out revision.

OPTIONS

`-ksubst`

Use subst style keyword substitution. See

```
co
for de-
```

tails. For example, `-kk -r1.1 -r1.2` ignores differences in keyword values when merging the changes from 1.1 to 1.2.

`-p[rev]`

Send the result to standard output instead of overwriting the working file.

`-q[rev]`

Run quietly; do not print diagnostics.

`-r[rev]`

Merge with respect to revision `rev`. Here an empty `rev` stands for the latest revision on the default branch, normally the head.

`-Vn` Emulate RCS version `n`. See

```
co
for details.
```

### -xsuffixes

Use suffixes to characterize RCS files. See  
ci  
for de-  
tails.

### EXAMPLES

Suppose you have released revision 2.8 of f.c. Assume furthermore that after you complete an unreleased revision 3.4, you receive updates to release 2.8 from someone else. To combine the updates to 2.8 and your changes between 2.8 and 3.4, put the updates to 2.8 into file f.c and execute

```
rcsmerge -p -r2.8 -r3.4 f.c >f.merged.c
```

Then examine f.merged.c. Alternatively, if you want to save the updates to 2.8 in the RCS file, check them in as revision 2.8.1.1 and execute co -j:

```
ci -r2.8.1.1 f.c  
co -r3.4 -j2.8:2.8.1.1 f.c
```

As another example, the following command undoes the changes between revision 2.4 and 2.8 in your currently checked out revision in f.c.

```
rcsmerge -r2.8 -r2.4 f.c
```

Note the order of the arguments, and that f.c will be overwritten.

### ENVIRONMENT

#### RCSINIT

options prepended to the argument list, separated by spaces. See  
ci  
for details.

### DIAGNOSTICS

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

### IDENTIFICATION

Author: Walter F. Tichy.  
Revision Number: 5.3; Release Date: 1991/08/19.  
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### SEE ALSO

```
co  
,  
ci  
,  
ident  
,
```

```
merge
,
rcs
,
rcsdiff
,
,
rcsintro
,
rlog
,
rcsfile
```

Walter F. Tichy, RCS--A System for Version Control,  
Software--Practice & Experience 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.

## 1.12 RLOG

### NAME

rlog - print log messages and other information about RCS files

### SYNOPSIS

```
rlog [ options ] file ...
```

### DESCRIPTION

rlog prints information about RCS files.

Pathnames matching an RCS suffix denote RCS files; all others denote working files. Names are paired as explained in

```
ci
.
```

rlog prints the following information for each RCS file: RCS pathname, working pathname, head (i.e., the number of the latest revision on the trunk), default branch, access list, locks, symbolic names, suffix, total number of revisions, number of revisions selected for printing, and descriptive text. This is followed by entries for the selected revisions in reverse chronological order for each branch. For each revision, rlog prints revision number, author, date/time, state, number of lines added/deleted (with respect to the previous revision), locker of the revision (if any), and log message. All times are displayed in Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Without options, rlog prints complete information. The options below restrict this output.

- L Ignore RCS files that have no locks set. This is convenient in combination with -h, -l, and -R.
- R Print only the name of the RCS file. This is convenient for translating a working pathname into an RCS pathname.
- h Print only the RCS pathname, working pathname, head,

default branch, access list, locks, symbolic names, and suffix.

-t Print the same as -h, plus the descriptive text.

-b Print information about the revisions on the default branch, normally the highest branch on the trunk.

-ddates

Print information about revisions with a checkin date/time in the ranges given by the semicolon-separated list of dates. A range of the form `d1<d2` or `d2>d1` selects the revisions that were deposited between `d1` and `d2` inclusive. A range of the form `<d` or `d>` selects all revisions dated `d` or earlier. A range of the form `d<` or `>d` selects all revisions dated `d` or later. A range of the form `d` selects the single, latest revision dated `d` or earlier. The date/time strings `d`, `d1`, and `d2` are in the free format explained in

co

. Quoting is normally necessary, especially for `<` and `>`. Note that the separator is a semicolon.

-l[lockers]

Print information about locked revisions only. In addition, if the comma-separated list `lockers` of login names is given, ignore all locks other than those held by the `lockers`. For example, `rlog -L -R -lwft RCS/#?` prints the name of RCS files locked by the user `wft`.

-r[revisions]

prints information about revisions given in the comma-separated list `revisions` of revisions and ranges. A range `rev1:rev2` means revisions `rev1` to `rev2` on the same branch, `:rev` means revisions from the beginning of the branch up to and including `rev`, and `rev:` means revisions starting with `rev` to the end of the branch containing `rev`. An argument that is a branch means all revisions on that branch. A range of branches means all revisions on the branches in that range. A branch followed by a `.` means the latest revision in that branch. A bare `-r` with no revisions means the latest revision on the default branch, normally the trunk.

-sstates

prints information about revisions whose state attributes match one of the states given in the comma-separated list `states`.

-w[logins]

prints information about revisions checked in by users with login names appearing in the comma-separated list `logins`. If `logins` is omitted, the user's login is assumed.

-Vn Emulate RCS version `n` when generating logs. See

```
co
  for
more.
```

#### -xsuffixes

Use suffixes to characterize RCS files. See  
ci  
for details.

rlog prints the intersection of the revisions selected with the options -d, -l, -s, and -w, intersected with the union of the revisions selected by -b and -r.

#### EXAMPLES

```
rlog -L -R RCS/#?
rlog -L -h RCS/#?
rlog -L -l RCS/#?
rlog RCS/#?
```

The first command prints the names of all RCS files in the subdirectory RCS that have locks. The second command prints the headers of those files, and the third prints the headers plus the log messages of the locked revisions. The last command prints complete information.

#### ENVIRONMENT

##### RCSINIT

options prepended to the argument list, separated by spaces. See  
ci  
for details.

#### DIAGNOSTICS

The exit status is zero if and only if all operations were successful.

#### IDENTIFICATION

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#### SEE ALSO

```
co
,
ci
,
ident
,
rcs
,
rcsdiff
,
rcsintro
```

```

    ,
    rcsmerge
    ,
    rcsfile

```

Walter F. Tichy, RCS--A System for Version Control, Software--Practice & Experience 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.

## BUGS

The separator for revision ranges in the `-r` option used to be `-` instead of `:`, but this leads to confusion when symbolic names contain `-`. For backwards compatibility `rlog -r` still supports the old `-` separator, but it warns about this obsolete use.

## 1.13 RCSFILE

NAME

`rcsfile` - format of RCS file

## DESCRIPTION

An RCS file's contents are described by the grammar below.

The text is free format: space, backspace, tab, newline, vertical tab, form feed, and carriage return (collectively, white space) have no significance except in strings. However, an RCS file must end in a newline character.

Strings are enclosed by `@`. If a string contains a `@`, it must be doubled; otherwise, strings may contain arbitrary binary data.

The meta syntax uses the following conventions: ``|'` (bar) separates alternatives; ``{'` and ``}'` enclose optional phrases; ``{'` and ``}*'` enclose phrases that may be repeated zero or more times; ``{'` and ``}+'` enclose phrases that must appear at least once and may be repeated; Terminal symbols are in boldface; nonterminal symbols are in italics.

```

rcstext    ::=  admin {delta}* desc {deltatext}*

admin      ::=  head      {num};
               { branch  {num}; }
               access    {id}*;
               symbols    {id : num}*;
               locks      {id : num}*; {strict ;}
               { comment  {string}; }
               { expand    {string}; }
               { newphrase }*

delta      ::=  num
               date      num;
               author     id;
               state      {id};
               branches    {num}*;
               next        {num};

```



```

                { newphrase }*

desc           ::= desc      string

deltatext     ::= num
                log          string
                { newphrase }*
                text         string

num           ::= {digit{.}}+

digit         ::= 0 | 1 | ... | 9

id            ::= letter{idchar}*

letter        ::= any letter

idchar        ::= any visible graphic character except special

special       ::= $ | , | . | : | ; | @

string        ::= @{any character, with @ doubled}*@

newphrase     ::= id word* ;

word          ::= id | num | string | :

```

Identifiers are case sensitive. Keywords are in lower case only. The sets of keywords and identifiers may overlap. In most environments RCS uses the ISO 8859/1 encoding: letters are octal codes 101-132, 141-172, 300-326, 330-366 and 370-377, visible graphic characters are codes 041-176 and 240-377, and white space characters are codes 010-015 and 040.

The newphrase productions in the grammar are reserved for future extensions to the format of RCS files. No newphrase will begin with any keyword already in use.

The delta nodes form a tree. All nodes whose numbers consist of a single pair (e.g., 2.3, 2.1, 1.3, etc.) are on the trunk, and are linked through the next field in order of decreasing numbers. The head field in the admin node points to the head of that sequence (i.e., contains the highest pair). The branch node in the admin node indicates the default branch (or revision) for most RCS operations. If empty, the default branch is the highest branch on the trunk.

All delta nodes whose numbers consist of  $2n$  fields ( $n$ ) (e.g., 3.1.1.1, 2.1.2.2, etc.) are linked as follows. All nodes whose first  $2n-1$  number fields are identical are linked through the next field in order of increasing numbers. For each such sequence, the delta node whose number is identical to the first  $2n-2$  number fields of the deltas on that sequence is called the branchpoint. The branches field of a node contains a list of the numbers of

the first nodes of all sequences for which it is a branchpoint. This list is ordered in increasing numbers.

Example:

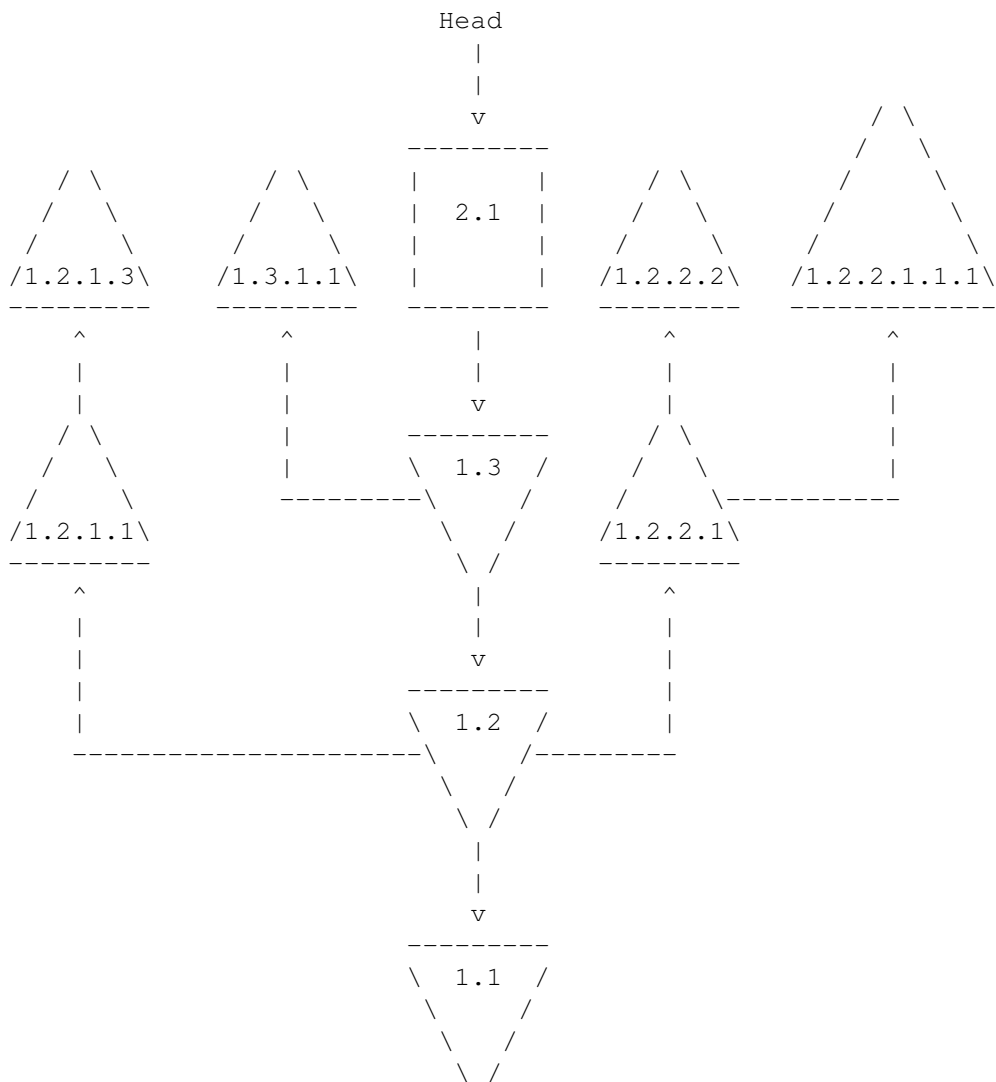


Fig. 1: A revision tree

IDENTIFICATION

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SEE ALSO

co  
,  
ci  
,  
ident  
,

rsc

,

rscdiff

,

rscintro

,

rlog

Walter F. Tichy, RCS--A System for Version Control,  
Software--Practice & Experience 15, 7 (July 1985), 637-654.