

NAME

rm, *rmdir* — remove files or directories

SYNOPSIS

rm [*-fri*] file ...

rmdir dir ...

DESCRIPTION

Rm removes the entries for one or more files from a directory. If an entry was the last link to the file, the file is destroyed. Removal of a file requires write permission in its directory, but neither read nor write permission on the file itself.

If a file has no write permission and the standard input is a terminal, its permissions are printed and a line is read from the standard input. If that line begins with *y* the file is deleted, otherwise the file remains. No questions are asked when the *-f* (force) option is given or if the standard input is not a terminal.

If a designated file is a directory, an error comment is printed unless the optional argument *-r* has been used. In that case, *rm* recursively deletes the entire contents of the specified directory, and the directory itself.

If the *-i* (interactive) option is in effect, *rm* asks whether to delete each file, and, under *-r*, whether to examine each directory.

Rmdir removes entries for the named directories, which must be empty.

SEE ALSO

unlink(2)

DIAGNOSTICS

Generally self-explanatory. It is forbidden to remove the file *..* merely to avoid the antisocial consequences of inadvertently doing something like '*rm -r ..*'.