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 RCS's version number.

DIAGNOSTICS

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

IDENTIFICATION

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SEE ALSO

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

The full documentation for RCS is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info**(1) and RCS programs
are properly installed at your site, the command

info rcs

should give you access to the complete manual. Additionally, the RCS homepage:

http://www.gnu.org/software/rcs/

has news and links to the latest release, development site, etc.

BUGS

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