## NAME

**mv** - move files

## SYNOPSIS

**mv** [**-f** | **-i** | **-n**] [**-hv**] *source target*

**mv** [**-f** | **-i** | **-n**] [**-v**] *source ... directory*

## DESCRIPTION

In its first form, the **mv** utility renames the file named by the *source* operand to the destination path named by the *target* operand. This form is assumed when the last operand does not name an already existing directory.

In its second form, **mv** moves each file named by a *source* operand to a destination file in the existing directory named by the *directory* operand. The destination path for each operand is the pathname produced by the concatenation of the last operand, a slash, and the final pathname component of the named file.

The following options are available:

**-f**       Do not prompt for confirmation before overwriting the destination path. (The **-f** option overrides any previous **-i** or **-n** options.)

**-h**       If the *target* operand is a symbolic link to a directory, do not follow it. This causes the **mv** utility to rename the file *source* to the destination path *target* rather than moving *source* into the directory referenced by *target*.

**-i**       Cause **mv** to write a prompt to standard error before moving a file that would overwrite an existing file. If the response from the standard input begins with the character 'y' or 'Y', the move is attempted. (The **-i** option overrides any previous **-f** or **-n** options.)

**-n**       Do not overwrite an existing file. (The **-n** option overrides any previous **-f** or **-i** options.)

**-v**       Cause **mv** to be verbose, showing files after they are moved.

It is an error for the *source* operand to specify a directory if the target exists and is not a directory.

If the destination path does not have a mode which permits writing, **mv** prompts the user for confirmation as specified for the **-i** option.

As the rename(2) call does not work across file systems, **mv** uses cp(1) and rm(1) to accomplish the

move.  The effect is equivalent to:

    rm -f destination_path && \
    cp -pRP source_file destination && \
    rm -rf source_file

**EXIT STATUS**

The **mv** utility exits 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

**EXAMPLES**

Rename file *foo* to *bar*, overwriting *bar* if it already exists:

    $ mv -f foo bar

**COMPATIBILITY**

The **-h**, **-n**, and **-v** options are non-standard and their use in scripts is not recommended.

**SEE ALSO**

cp(1), rm(1), symlink(7)

**STANDARDS**

The **mv** utility is expected to be IEEE Std 1003.2 ("POSIX.2") compatible.

**HISTORY**

A **mv** command appeared in Version 1 AT&T UNIX.