

NAME

difftar – Compare tar.gz archive member lists.

SYNOPSIS

`${HOME}/bin/exe/difftar [1=listA] [2=listB]`

MOTIVATION

Sometimes a question arises whether tar archives made on different dates are the same or, if they differ, how they differ. Before this program can be used to help answer those questions, `tar xvf dir.tar.gz` must be used to generate member lists `listA` and `listB` for the two versions A and B of the archive.

DESCRIPTION

The program uses `GETFIL` to attach the `listA` file, either from a command-line assignment or by prompting the user. It reads the file to extract the names and byte counts of up to 1024 members of archive A. Then it repeats the process for archive B. If the archives contain different numbers of members the program stops with return code 3. If corresponding names in archive A and archive B differ, the program stops with return code 2. If corresponding sizes in archive A and archive B differ, the program writes the names of those files and stops with return code 1. If the members of the two archives have identical names and sizes, the program stops with return code 0.

UNITS and FILES

- 0 error message if too many archive members
- 1 archive A member list
- 2 archive B member list
- 5 responses to prompts from `GETFIL`
- 6 names of archive members having different sizes

SEE ALSO

`comtar`, which uses this program
`listdiff`, which can be used to compare member lists differing in length or names

DIAGNOSTICS

The following return codes are possible.

- 0 no differences were found
- 1 at least one archive member had different sizes
- 2 at least one archive member had different names
- 3 the archives contain different numbers of members
- 4 one or both archives has more than 1024 members

AUTHOR

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EXAMPLE

```
unix[1] tar xvf A/dir.tar.gz > ${HOME}/tmp/A
unix[2] tar xvf B/dir.tar.gz > ${HOME}/tmp/B
unix[3] diffstar 1=${HOME}/tmp/A 2=${HOME}/tmp/B > names
unix[4] echo $?
1
unix[5] more names
able
baker
charley
unix[6]
```