NAME

mxmbx – Process a reloaded Multics mailbox segment

SYNOPSIS

mxmbx [**–c** *control-file(s)*] [**–tnrux**] *mailbox-path* [*mailbox-path* **. . .**]

DESCRIPTION

mxmbx converts a Multics mailbox that has been reloaded as a UNIX file by **mxload** into a set of UNIX files containing the individual messages or into a single UNIX file containing all the messages. The *.mbx* suffix must be supplied. Four operations are supported: *table* (**–t**), *extract* (**–x**), *unpack* (**–u**), and *repack* (**–r**); only one of the four may be specified. Multiple *mailbox-paths* may be specified; each is processed independently. This program works only on files that have been reloaded by **mxload**, in 9bit conversion mode (which is **mxload**'s default mode of operation for this file type).

Messages are written to files in a similar format as they would be printed with Multics read_mail's **print** request. Each message is prefixed by an extra header containing the message segment control information, followed by the regular header, followed by the message text.

If the **–u** option or **–x** option is given, the messages are written one per file. Each file is named ####.MSG, where #### is the number of the message within the mailbox. If **–u** is specified, the original *mailbox-path* file is replaced by a directory of the same name containing the message files. If **–x** is specified, the original file is unaffected, and the message files are created in the current directory.

If the **–r** option is given, a single file is created containing all the messages in succession, separated by control-L characters. This file replaces the original *mailbox-path* file.

By default, **mxmbx** lists the files it is creating or writing into. The **–n** option suppresses this. If **–t** is specified, **mxmbx** lists the files it would create as if they were being listed in brief form by **mxmap**.

The text of mail messages is assumed to be valid 8-bit ASCII. If any non-8-bit characters are discovered, they are truncated. A single warning message is generated for each *mailbox-path* for which this situation occurs.

The permissions, owner, and group (owner and group only when **mxmbx** is run by **super-user**) for all resulting files are set equal to the corresponding attributes of the original *mailbox-path* file. The modification and access times of *mailbox-path* are preserved (saved and restored) by the **–u** and **–r** options; the **–x** and **–t** operations update the access time. The modification time fo each message file generated is set equal to the time the message was delivered to the mailbox, and the access time is set equal to original access time of the *mailbox-path* file.

The **–c** option may be used to specify a control file that sets defaults for unpacking; normally, the standard **mxload** defaults are used. Object statements and most option statements in the control file are ignored.

OPTIONS

–c *control-file*

Use *control-file* to specify options affecting the conversion, such as access control attributes. See **mxload** *User's Manual* for details of control file syntax.

–t   Specifies the table operation: produce a list of messages in the mailbox, without affecting the contents. Only one of **–t**, **–r**, **–u**, and **–x** may be specified.

–r   Specifies the repack operation: replace the *mailbox-path* file with a file containing all the messages.

–u   Specifies the unpack operation: replace the *mailbox-path* file with individual files containing each message.

–x   Specifies the extract operation: extract messages from the *mailbox-path* file into individual files in the current directory.

–n   Do not list files as they are created.

ERRORS

The conversion begins by validating the input file. If it appears to be a mailbox, and to have been reloaded with 9bit conversion, the new file or directory is created, with a unique name. If the conversion is successful, the input file is deleted, and the new file is renamed to the original file's name. If an error occurs, nothing is deleted, and an error message is printed to identify the problem.

FILES

/tmp/mx??????

Temporary files used in conversion

ENVIRONMENT

TMP   Directory where temporary files will be placed, default is **/tmp**. Performance is enhanced by setting **TMP** to a directory in the same filesystem as the objects being reloaded, as this permits **mxmbx** to use **rename**(2) to put objects in their final locations, rather than copying the contents.

SEE ALSO

mxload User's Manual, **mxload**(1), **mxmap**(1)