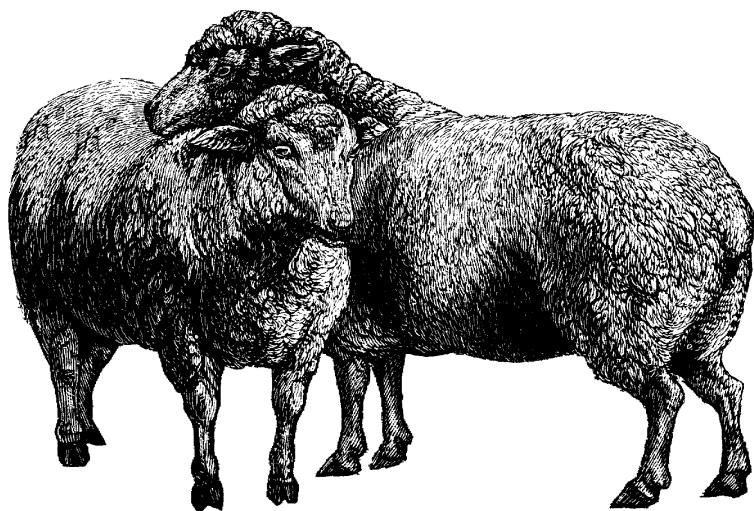


Source Code Management

2nd Edition  
Updated to Cover v1.11

# CVS

*Pocket Reference*



O'REILLY®

*Gregor N. Purdy*

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**CVS**

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SECOND EDITION

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**CVS**  
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## Administrator Commands

Table 8 lists the commands CVS administrators use to manage their repositories.

Table 8. Administrator commands

| Command | Description                       |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| admin   | Perform administrative functions. |
| adm     |                                   |
| rscs    |                                   |
| init    | Create a new repository.          |
| kserver | Run in Kerberos server mode.      |
| pserver | Run in password server mode.      |
| server  | Run in remote server mode.        |

### admin

```
admin
[ -b[rev] ]
[ -cstring ]
[ -kkflag ]
[ -l[rev] ]
[ -L ]
[ -mrev:msg ]
[ -nname[:rev] ]
[ -Nname[:rev] ]
[ -orange ]
[ -q ]
[ -sstate[:rev] ]
[ -t[file] ]
[ -t-string ]
[ -u[rev] ]
[ -U ]
[ files ... ]
```

The `admin` command performs administrative functions. If a `cvsadmin` user group exists, only the users in that group can run `admin` with options other than `-k`. Additional options that may be used with the `admin` command are listed in Table 9.

Table 9. *admin options*

| Option                | Description  |
|-----------------------|--|
| <i>-b[rev]</i>        | Set the default branch.  |
| <i>-cstring</i>       | Obsolete; set the comment leader.  |
| <i>-kkflag</i>        | Set the default keyword substitution mode.   |
| <i>-l[rev]</i>        | Lock the specified revision.   |
| <i>-L</i>             | Enable strict locking.   |
| <i>-mrev:msg</i>      | Change the revision's log message.   |
| <i>-nname[:[rev]]</i> | Give the specified branch or revision the symbolic name <i>name</i> .              |
| <i>-Nname[:[rev]]</i> | The same as <i>-n</i> , except that if <i>name</i> is already in use, it is moved. |
| <i>-orange</i>        | Delete revisions permanently.  |
| <i>-q</i>             | Don't display diagnostics.   |
| <i>-sstate[:rev]</i>  | Change the state of a revision.  |
| <i>-t[file]</i>       | Set the descriptive text in the RCS file.  |
| <i>-t-string</i>      | Set the descriptive text in the RCS file to <i>string</i> .                        |
| <i>-u[rev]</i>        | Unlock the specified revision.   |
| <i>-U</i>             | Disable strict locking.  |

If the revision specified for *-l* is a branch, the latest revision on that branch will be used. If no revision is given, the latest revision on the default branch is used.

If the name given for *-n* is already in use, an error is generated. You can use *-N* to move a tag (change the revision associated with the tag); however, you should use `cvs tag` or `cvs rtag` instead.

The *-o* option is dangerous and results in a permanent loss of information from the repository. Use it with extreme caution and only after careful consideration. See Table 10 for the various ways to specify ranges. There must not be any branches or locks on the revisions to be removed. Beware of interactions between this command and symbolic names.

Table 10. Range formats

| Format            | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>rev1::rev2</i> | Eliminate versions between <i>rev1</i> and <i>rev2</i> , retaining only enough information to go directly from <i>rev1</i> to <i>rev2</i> ; the two specified versions are retained. |
| <i>::rev2</i>     | The same as <i>rev1::rev2</i> , except the first revision is the branchpoint revision.   |
| <i>rev1::</i>     | The same as <i>rev1::rev2</i> , except the second revision is the end of the branch, and it is deleted instead of retained.  |
| <i>rev</i>        | Delete the specified revision.   |
| <i>rev1:rev2</i>  | The same as <i>rev1::rev2</i> , except the two named revisions are deleted as well.  |
| <i>:rev2</i>      | The same as <i>::rev2</i> , except the named revision is deleted as well.  |
| <i>rev1:</i>      | The same as <i>rev1::</i> , except the named revision is deleted as well.  |

If no *file* is specified for the *-t* option, CVS reads from standard input until it reaches the end of the file or a period on a line by itself.

The determination of the target revision for the *-u* option is the same as for *-l*.

The options in Table 11 are present in CVS for historical reasons and should not be used. (Using these options may corrupt the repository.)

Table 11. Obsolete admin options

| Option            | Description   |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>-alogins</i>   | Append the logins to the RCS file's access list.                                      |
| <i>-Aoldfile</i>  | Append the access list of <i>oldfile</i> to the access list of the RCS file.          |
| <i>-e[logins]</i> | Erase logins from the RCS file's access list, or erase all if a list is not provided. |

Table 11. *Obsolete admin options (continued)*

| Option            | Description  |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>-i</i>         | Create and initialize a new RCS file. Instead of this option, use <code>add</code> to add files to a CVS repository. |
| <i>-l</i>         | Run interactively; this option doesn't work with client/server CVS and is likely to be removed in a future version.  |
| <i>-Vn</i>        | Specify that the RCS files used by CVS should be made compatible with a specific version of RCS.                     |
| <i>-xsuffixes</i> | Determine the filename suffix for RCS files; however, CVS has always used only <i>,v</i> as the RCS file suffix.     |

## init

`init`

The `init` command initializes the repository. Use the global `-d` option to specify the repository's directory if `$CVSROOT` isn't set appropriately.

The newly initialized repository contains a `CVSROOT` module and nothing else. Once the repository is initialized, use other CVS commands to add files to it or to check out the `CVSROOT` module to make changes to the administrative files.

## kserver

`kserver`

This command operates as a server with Kerberos authentication, providing access to the repositories specified before the command with the `--allow-root` option. This command is used in the `inetd.conf` file, not on the command line. Another global option frequently used with this command is `-T` (see Table 1).

## pserver

`pserver`

This command operates as a password-authenticated server, providing access to the repositories specified before the command with the `--allow-root` option. This command is used in the `inetd.conf` file, not on the command line. Another global option frequently used with this command is `-T` (see Table 1).

## **server**

server

The CVS client runs this command on the remote machine when connecting to a repository specified by an `:ext:` repository locator (usually via RSH or SSH).