NAME

mxforum – Process reloaded Multics Forum meeting(s)

SYNOPSIS

mxforum [−**c** *control-file(s)*] [−**trux**] [−**n**] *Forum-path* [*Forum-path* . . .]

DESCRIPTION

mxforum converts a UNIX directory containing a Multics Forum meeting, as reloaded by mxload, into a set of UNIX files containing the individual transactions or into a single UNIX file containing all the transactions. The *.forum* 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 *Forum-paths* may be specified; each is processed independently. This program works only if the files in the *Forum-path* directories have been reloaded by **mxload**, in 9bit conversion mode (which is **mxload**'s default mode of operation for this file type).

Transactions are written to files in much the same format as they would be printed with Multics forum's print request. A header line gives the transaction number (in brackets), the Multics user ID of the transaction's submitter, and the date and time the transaction was entered. A second header line gives the subject. These are followed one or more lines containing the text of the transaction. The transaction is completed by a trailer line that repeats the transaction number (in brackets) and identifies the previous and next transactions (if any) in its chain.

If the −**u** option or −**x** option is given, the transactions are written one per file. Each file is named ####.TXN, where #### is the transaction number from the Forum meeting. If −**u** is specified, the original files (named *Proceedings.#*, *Attendees*, and *Transactions*) in each Forum directory are deleted, and the directory is filled with the transaction files. If −**x** is specified, those files are unaffected, and the transaction files are created in the current directory.

If the −**r** option is given, a single file is created containing all the transactions in succession, separated by control-L characters. This file is named Proceedings in the named Forum directory. The original files (named *Proceedings.#*, *Attendees*, and *Transactions*) in each Forum directory are deleted.

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

The text of Forum transactions 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 Forum directory in which this situation occurs.

The modification time for each transaction file is set equal to the time the transaction was originally entered, or, if a single file is being generated, the last modification time of the original Forum meeting.

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 transactions in the Forum meeting, without affecting the contents. Only one of −**t**, −**r**, −**u**, and −**x** may be specified.

−**r** Specifies the repack operation: replace the contents of the *Forum-path* directory with a file containing all the transactions.

−**u** Specifies the unpack operation: replace the contents of the *Forum-path* directory with individual files containing each of the transactions.

−**x** Specifies the extract operation: extract transactions from the *Forum-path* directory into individual files in the current directory.

−n   Do not list files as they are created.

ERRORS

The conversion begins by validating the input directory. If it appears to be a Forum meeting, 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 directory is deleted, and the new file is renamed to the original directory's name. If an error occurs, nothing is deleted, and an error message is printed to identify the offending directory and component file.

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 **mxforum** 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)