

**NAME**

if – conditional command

**SYNOPSIS**

if expr command [ arg ... ]

**DESCRIPTION**

*If* evaluates the expression *expr*, and if its value is true, executes the given *command* with the given arguments.

The following primitives are used to construct the *expr*:

**-r** file true if the file exists and is readable.

**-w** file true if the file exists and is writable.

*s1* = *s2* true if the strings *s1* and *s2* are equal.

*s1* != *s2*  
true if the strings *s1* and *s2* are not equal.

{ command }

The bracketed command is executed to obtain the exit status. Status zero is considered *true*. The command must not be another *if*.

These primaries may be combined with the following operators:

**!** unary negation operator

**-a** binary *and* operator

**-o** binary *or* operator

( *expr* ) parentheses for grouping.

**-a** has higher precedence than **-o**. Notice that all the operators and flags are separate arguments to *if* and hence must be surrounded by spaces. Notice also that parentheses are meaningful to the Shell and must be escaped.

**SEE ALSO**

sh(I), find(I)

**BUGS**