

## NAME

csvbreak – break a CSV file into multiple files based on the specified field

## SYNOPSIS

**csvbreak -f FIELD [OPTION]... [FILE]**

## DESCRIPTION

Read CSV data from standard input or *FILE* and break the data into multiple files based on the value of the provided *FIELD*. As each record is read it will be printed to a file whose name is composed of an optional prefix, the value of the specified field for that record, and an optional suffix, .csv by default. If the value of the break field contains a null character it will be truncated in the filename, any other characters in the break field will be used in the filename including characters that may be used as a directory separator on your operating system, keep this in mind. Systems that disallow certain characters in a filename may cause csvbreak to fail if these characters are present in the break field.

### **-c, --print-counts**

don't create break files, just display the distinct values of the break field and the number of occurrences in the file of each value

### **-d, --delimiter=DELIM**

Use *DELIM* instead of the comma character as the delimiter character

### **-f, --field=FIELD**

field name or number to break on. fields may be specified by number starting at 1 or by field name. A field name must contain at least one non-digit character. When using field names it is assumed that the first non-empty record contains a header with field names that match the names used in the field list, if any field names cannot be resolved from the first record an error will occur.

### **-h, --header**

print the header record to each file created, this option is implied when -f is provided with a field name instead of number.

### **-r, --remove-break-field**

do not print the break field to created files

### **-s, --strict**

enforce strict mode, mal-formed CSV files will cause an error

### **-q, --quote=QUOTE**

Use *QUOTE* instead of double quote as the quote character

### **-S, --suffix**

the suffix to use for the created files, the default is .csv

### **-P, --prefix**

the prefix to use for the created files

**--help** Display a help message and exit

### **--version**

Print version information to stderr and exit

## AUTHOR

Written by Robert Gamble.

## BUGS

Please send questions, comments, bugs, etc. to: [rgamble@sourceforge.net](mailto:rgamble@sourceforge.net)

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**SEE ALSO**

csvcount(1), csvcheck(1), csvfix(1), csvcut(1), csvgrep(1), csvbreak(1)