

NAME

`ar` — archive file format

DESCRIPTION

The archive command `ar` is used to combine several files into one. Archives are used mainly as libraries to be searched by the link-editor `ld`.

A file produced by `ar` has a magic number at the start, followed by the constituent files, each preceded by a file header. The magic number is 0177545(8) (it was chosen to be unlikely to occur anywhere else). The header of each file is 26 bytes long:

```
/*          @(#)ar.h          2.1          */
#define     ARMAG          0177545
struct ar_hdr {
    char          ar_name[14];
    long         ar_date;
    char         ar_uid;
    char         ar_gid;
    int          ar_mode;
    long         ar_size;
};
```

Each file begins on a word boundary; a null byte is inserted between files if necessary. Nevertheless the size given reflects the actual size of the file exclusive of padding.

Notice there is no provision for empty areas in an archive file.

SEE ALSO

`ar(1)`, `ld(1)`, `strip(1)`

FILES

`/usr/include/ar.h`