

fstab

fstab (File Systems Table)

The `fstab` (file systems table) is a system configuration file (`/etc/fstab`) used to define how disk partitions, filesystems, and other storage devices should be mounted and integrated into the filesystem at boot time.

Purpose of `fstab`

- **Mounting Filesystems:** `fstab` tells the operating system which filesystems to mount and where to mount them in the directory structure.
 - **Automating Mounting:** It allows for the automatic mounting of filesystems at boot time without user intervention.
 - **Specifying Options:** It provides options for mounting, such as read/write permissions, mount points, and special parameters for specific filesystems.
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File Format

The `fstab` file consists of lines, each of which describes a filesystem. Each line contains six fields, separated by spaces or tabs:

1. **Filesystem:** The block device or remote filesystem to be mounted (e.g., `/dev/sda1`, `UUID=xxxxx`, `LABEL=xxxxx`, `/server/share`).
2. **Mount Point:** The directory where the filesystem will be mounted (e.g., `/`, `/home`, `/mnt/data`).
3. **Type:** The type of filesystem (e.g., `ext4`, `ntfs`, `nfs`, `tmpfs`).
4. **Options:** Mount options (e.g., `defaults`, `noatime`, `ro`, `rw`). Multiple options are comma-separated.
5. **Dump:** A number indicating whether the filesystem should be backed up by the `dump` utility (`0` for no, `1` for yes).

6. **Pass:** The order in which filesystems should be checked at boot time by the `fscck` utility (`0` for no check, `1` for the root filesystem, `2` for other filesystems).

You never need to enable dump - it's an old outdated command.

example:

```
# <file system> <mount point> <type> <options> <dump> <pass>
UUID=1234-5678 / ext4 defaults 0 1
UUID=8765-4321 /home ext4 defaults 0 2
/dev/sda2 swap swap sw 0 0
/server/share /mnt/share cifs username=user,password=pass 0 0
```

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