NAME

ffmpeg_head -- Install, patch or delete the current FFmpeg HEAD

SYNOPSIS

ffmpeg_head -r | -t | -p | -d
ffmpeg_head [*advanced_options*] (**-R|-T|-P**) *patch ...*
ffmpeg_head -h | -x

DESCRIPTION

Bash_AVpres is a collection of Bash scripts for audio-visual preservation. One of these small programs is **ffmpeg_head**. It installs or deletes the current FFmpeg HEAD. A patch or a set of patches can be applied to the source code before compilation. The three commands **ffmpeg**, **ffplay** and **ffprobe** can be installed either at root (for current usage) or on the ${HOME} (which is intended mainly for testing purposes); in addition, they can also be compiled for distribution.

This script should work correctly with Bash from version 3.2 (released back on 2006-10-11), however we strongly advise using the current version 5.3.9 (released on 2025-12-10).

OPTIONS

BASIC OPTIONS

-r, --root
install the FFmpeg commands at root

-t, --test
install the FFmpeg commands at '${HOME}'

-p, --public
compile the FFmpeg commands for distrubution

-d, --delete
delete the FFmpeg HEAD folder

The **ffmpeg**, **ffplay** and **ffprobe** commands are removed on from '${HOME}', but not from root.

PATCH OPTIONS

The *patch* can be either a single patch, or a set of patches separated by spaces, or a folder containing one or more patches.

-R *patch ...*, **--patch_root=***patch ...*
apply a patch or a patch set, and install the FFmpeg commands at root

-T *patch ...*, **--patch_test=***patch ...*
apply a patch or a patch set, and install the FFmpeg commands at '${HOME}'

-P *patch ...*, **--patch_public=***patch ...*
apply a patch or a patch set, and compile the FFmpeg commands for distribution

ADVANCED OPTIONS

The following three special options, when needed, must be passed before the mode and patch options.

--config=*config_file*
path to an external configuration file

This allows to play with different configuration files, which may be useful for testing purposes.

--source_folder=*source_folder*
path where the source folder is cloned

Note that a different path rather than the default '${HOME}/FFMPEG_HEAD' can be chosen also without patching (i.e. using the basic options **-r**, **--root**, **-t**, **--test**, **-d** and **--delete**).

--patch_local=(yes|no)
By default, the current head is downloaded and patched. The option **--patch_local=yes** allow to patch the already downloaded repository, rather than to download it. Of course, this results in an error, when the patch is not consistent with the local folder.

INFORMATIVE OPTIONS

-h, --help
display a help message

-x, --options
display the commands used for compilation and their default values

NOTES

CONFIGURATION FILE

An external configuration file
${HOME}/.config/AVpres/Bash_AVpres/ffmpeg_head.txt

can be defined, allowing the script to import alternate default values for the following options:
config
source_folder

patch_local

Example:
patch_local='yes'

LOG FILES

Temporary log files are stored at
/tmp/AVpres/ffmpeg_head.XXXXXXXXXX

The log files can be used for debugging, for example by running **cat** on the address prompted with fatal error messages:

cat /tmp/AVpres/ffmpeg_head.*XXXXXXXXXX*

SEE ALSO

FFmpeg website
https://ffmpeg.org/

cc(1), **git**(1) and **make**(1); **nasm**(1) or **yasm**(1).

COPYRIGHT

Copyright (c) 2003-2026 by Reto Kromer
Copyright (c) 2026 by Michal Cohen

LICENSE

The **ffmpeg_head** Bash script is released under a 3-Clause BSD License.

DISCLAIMER

The **ffmpeg_head** Bash script is provided "as is" without warranty or support of any kind.