NAME

metadata_csv -- Recursively create a CSV file with metadata of all AV files in a folder and its subfolders

SYNOPSIS

metadata_csv -i *input_path* [**-o** *output_file*]
metadata_csv -h | **-x**

DESCRIPTION

Bash_AVpres is a collection of Bash scripts for audio-visual preservation. One of these small programs is **metadata_csv**. It creates recursively a CSV file with metadata of all AV files in a folder and its subfolders. The main container, video and audio codec data are extracted.

This script requires Bash version 4.3 (released back on 2014-02-27) or higher, however we strongly advise using the current version 5.3.9 (released on 2025-12-10).

OPTIONS

BASIC OPTIONS

-i *input_path*, **--input=***input_path*
path to an input folder

-o *output_file*, **--output=***output_file*
path to the CSV file

If this parameter is not passed, then the script uses:
${HOME}/report_YYYY-MM-DD.csv
where YYYY-MM-DD is the current date.

ADVANCED OPTIONS

The arguments of the advanced options can be overwritten by the user. Please remember that any string containing spaces must be quoted, or its spaces must be escaped.

--verbosity=(path|filename|count|off)
For each processed file the Terminal will show:
path = full path
filename = only filename and extension
count = a counter (default)
off = nothing, i.e. works silently

--exclusion='^(*exclusion_list***)$'**

The *exclusion_list* is defined as a regex of the file extensions which are excluded from the analysis. The default value is:
--exclusion='^(txt|md5|xml|pdf|xlsx|xls|docx|doc|zip|gz)$'

Only the actual extension must be listed, without a separation period.

--ffprobe='/bin/ffprobe'
path to the **ffprobe** command

Useful when multiple FFmpeg versions are installed on the computer and you want to use a different **ffprobe** than the default.

INFORMATIVE OPTIONS

-h, --help
display a help message

-x, --options
display the advanced options with their default arguments and indicate if a local configuration has been defined or not

NOTES

CONFIGURATION FILE

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

can be defined, allowing the script to import alternate default values for the following options:
verbosity
exclusion
ffprobe

Example:
verbosity='filename'

LOG FILES

Temporary log files are stored at
/tmp/AVpres/metadata_csv.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/metadata_csv.*XXXXXXXXXX*

SEE ALSO

ffprobe Documentation

https://ffmpeg.org/ffprobe.html

https://ffmpeg.org/ffprobe-all.html

RFC 7111 -- Michael Hausenblas, Erik Wilde and Jeni Tennison: "URI Fragment Identifiers for the text/csv Media Type", January 2014

https://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7111

ffprobe(1).

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