NAME

mandoc - format and display UNIX manuals

SYNOPSIS

mandoc [**-V**] [**-f***option*] [**-m***format*] [**-O***option*] [**-T***output*] [**-W***err*] [*file...*]

DESCRIPTION

The **mandoc** utility formats UNIX manual pages for display. The arguments are as follows:

-f*option* Comma-separated compiler options. See *Compiler Options* for details.

-m*format*
Input format. See *Input Formats* for available formats. Defaults to **-mandoc**.

-O*option*
Comma-separated output options.

-T*output*
Output format. See *Output Formats* for available formats. Defaults to **-Tascii**.

-V Print version and exit.

-W*err* Comma-separated warning options. Use **-Wall** to print warnings, **-Werror** for warnings to be considered errors and cause utility termination. Multiple **-W** arguments may be comma-separated, such as **-Werror**,**all**.

file Read input from zero or more files. If unspecified, reads from stdin. If multiple files are specified, **mandoc** will halt with the first failed parse.

By default, **mandoc** reads mdoc(7) or man(7) text from stdin, implying **-mandoc**, and produces **-Tascii** output.

The **mandoc** utility exits 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

Input Formats

The **mandoc** utility accepts mdoc(7) and man(7) input with **-mdoc** and **-man**, respectively. The mdoc(7) format is *strongly* recommended; man(7) should only be used for legacy manuals.

A third option, **-mandoc**, which is also the default, determines encoding on-the-fly: if the first non-comment macro is ‘Dd’ or ‘Dt’, the mdoc(7) parser is used; otherwise, the man(7) parser is used.

If multiple files are specified with **-mandoc**, each has its file-type determined this way. If multiple files are specified and **-mdoc** or **-man** is specified, then this format is used exclusively.

Compiler Options

Default mdoc(7) and man(7) compilation behaviour may be overridden with the **-f** flag.

-fign-errors
When parsing multiple files, don't halt when one errors out. Useful with **-Tlint** over a large set of manuals passed on the command line.

-fign-escape
Ignore invalid escape sequences. This is the default, but the option can be used to override an earlier **-fstrict**.

-fign-scope
When rewinding the scope of a block macro, forces the compiler to ignore scope violations. This can seriously mangle the resulting tree. (mdoc only)

-fno-ign-escape
Do not ignore invalid escape sequences.

-fno-ign-macro
Do not ignore unknown macros at the start of input lines.

-fstrict Implies **-fno-ign-escape** and **-fno-ign-macro**.

Output Formats

The **mandoc** utility accepts the following **-T** arguments, which correspond to output modes:

-Tascii Produce 7-bit ASCII output, backspace-encoded for bold and underline styles. This is the default. See *ASCII Output*.

-Thtml Produce strict HTML-4.01 output, with a sane default style. See *HTML Output*.

-Tlint Parse only: produce no output. Implies **-Wall** and **-fstrict**.

-Tps Produce PostScript output. See *PostScript Output*.

-Ttree Produce an indented parse tree.

-Txhtml
Produce strict XHTML-1.0 output, with a sane default style. See *XHTML Output*.

If multiple input files are specified, these will be processed by the corresponding filter in-order.

ASCII Output

Output produced by **-Tascii**, which is the default, is rendered in standard 7-bit ASCII documented in ascii(7).

Font styles are applied by using back-spaced encoding such that an underlined character ‘c’ is rendered as ‘_\[bs]c’, where ‘\[bs]’ is the back-space character number 8. Emboldened characters are rendered as ‘c\[bs]c’.

The special characters documented in mandoc_char(7) are rendered best-effort in an ASCII equivalent.

Output width is limited to 78 visible columns unless literal input lines exceed this limit.

The following **-O** arguments are accepted:

width=*width*
The output width is set to *width,* which will normalise to >=60.

HTML Output

Output produced by **-Thtml** conforms to HTML-4.01 strict.

Font styles and page structure are applied using CSS2. By default, no font style is applied to any text, although CSS2 is hard-coded to format the basic structure of output.

The *example.style.css* file documents the range of styles applied to output and, if used, will cause rendered documents to appear as they do in **-Tascii**.

Special characters are rendered in decimal-encoded UTF-8.

The following **-O** arguments are accepted:

includes=*fmt*
The string *fmt*, for example, *../src/%I.html*, is used as a template for linked header files (usually via the ‘In’ macro). Instances of ‘%I’ are replaced with the include filename. The default is not to present a hyperlink.

man=*fmt*

The string *fmt*, for example, *../html%S/%N.%S.html*, is used as a template for linked manuals (usually via the ‘Xr’ macro). Instances of ‘%N’ and ‘%S’ are replaced with the linked manual’s name and section, respectively. If no section is included, section 1 is assumed. The default is not to present a hyperlink.

style=*style.css*

The file *style.css* is used for an external style-sheet. This must be a valid absolute or relative URI.

PostScript Output

PostScript "Adobe-3.0" Level-2 pages may be generated by **-Tps**. Output pages default to letter sized and are rendered in the Times font family, 11-point. Margins are calculated as 1/9 the page length and width. Line-height is 1.4m.

Special characters are rendered as in *ASCII Output*.

The following **-O** arguments are accepted:

paper=*name*

The paper size *name* may be one of *a3*, *a4*, *a5*, *legal*, or *letter*. You may also manually specify dimensions as *NNxNN*, width by height in millimetres. If an unknown value is encountered, *letter* is used.

XHTML Output

Output produced by **-Txhtml** conforms to XHTML-1.0 strict.

See *HTML Output* for details; beyond generating XHTML tags instead of HTML tags, these output modes are identical.

EXAMPLES

To page manuals to the terminal:

```
$ mandoc -Wall,error -fstrict mandoc.1 2>&1 | less
$ mandoc mandoc.1 mdoc.3 mdoc.7 | less
```

To produce HTML manuals with *style.css* as the style-sheet:

```
$ mandoc -Thtml -Ostyle=style.css mdoc.7 > mdoc.7.html
```

To check over a large set of manuals:

```
$ mandoc -Tlint -fign-errors ‘find /usr/src -name \*\.[1-9]‘
```

To produce a series of PostScript manuals for A4 paper:

```
$ mandoc -Tps -Opaper=a4 mdoc.7 man.7 > manuals.ps
```

COMPATIBILITY

This section summarises **mandoc** compatibility with groff(1). Each input and output format is separately noted.

ASCII Compatibility

- The ‘\~’ special character doesn’t produce expected behaviour in **-Tascii**.
- The ‘Bd -literal’ and ‘Bd -unfilled’ macros of mdoc(7) in **-Tascii** are synonyms, as are -filled and -ragged.
- In groff(1), the ‘Pa’ mdoc(7) macro does not underline when scoped under an ‘It’ in the FILES section. This behaves correctly in **mandoc**.
- A list or display following the ‘Ss’ mdoc(7) macro in **-Tascii** does not assert a prior vertical break, just as it doesn’t with ‘Sh’.
- The ‘na’ man(7) macro in **-Tascii** has no effect.
- Words aren’t hyphenated.
- In normal mode (not a literal block), blocks of spaces aren’t preserved, so double spaces following sentence closure are reduced to a single space; groff(1) retains spaces.
- Sentences are unilaterally monospaced.

HTML/XHTML Compatibility

- The ‘\fP’ escape will revert the font to the previous ‘\f’ escape, not to the last rendered decoration, which is now dictated by CSS instead of hard-coded. It also will not span past the current scope, for the same reason. Note that in *ASCII Output* mode, this will work fine.
- The mdoc(7) ‘Bl -hang’ and ‘Bl -tag’ list types render similarly (no break following overreached left-hand side) due to the expressive constraints of HTML.
- The man(7) ‘IP’ and ‘TP’ lists render similarly.

SEE ALSO

man(7), mandoc_char(7), mdoc(7)

AUTHORS

The **mandoc** utility was written by Kristaps Dzonsons <kristaps@bsd.lv>.

CAVEATS

The **-Thtml** and **-Txhtml** CSS2 styling used for **-mdoc** input lists does not render properly in older browsers, such as Internet Explorer 6 and earlier.

In **-Thtml** and **-Txhtml**, the maximum size of an element attribute is determined by BUFSIZ, which is usually 1024 bytes. Be aware of this when setting long link formats such as **-Ostyle**=*really/long/link*.

The **-Thtml** and **-Txhtml** output modes don't render the '\s' font size escape documented in mdoc(7) and man(7).

Nesting elements within next-line element scopes of **-man**, such as 'br' within an empty 'B', will confuse **-Thtml** and **-Txhtml** and cause them to forget the formatting of the prior next-line scope.

The 'i' macro in **-man** should italicise all subsequent text if a line argument is not provided. This behaviour is not implemented. The ''' control character is an alias for the standard macro control character and does not emit a line-break as stipulated in GNU troff.