LATEX2man

A Documentation Tool

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Abstract

Latex2man is a tool to translate UNIX manual pages written with LaTeX into a format understood by the UNIX man(1)-command. Alternatively HTML, TexInfo, or LaTeX code can be produced too. Output of parts of the text may be suppressed using the conditional text feature (for this, LaTeX generation may be used).

1 Synopsis

latex2man [-ttransfile] [-HMTL] [-h] [-V] [-Cname] [-achar] infile outfile

2 Description

Latex2man reads the file infile and writes outfile. The input must be a LATEX document using the latex2man LATEX package. Latex2man translates that document into the troff(1) format using the **-man** macro package.

Using the **-H** option, HTML code can be produced, instead of troff(1).

Using the **-T** option, TexInfo code can be produced, instead of troff(1).

Using the **-M** option, troff(1) input is produced.

Using the **-L** option, \LaTeX ouput can be produced, instead of troff(1).

3 Options

- -ttransfile Translation for user defined LATEX macros.
- -M Produce output suitable for the man(1) command (default).
- -H Instead of producing output suitable for the man(1) command, HTML code is produced (despite the name of the command).

- -T Instead of producing output suitable for the man(1) command, Tex-Info code is produced (despite the name of the command). The generated .texi-file may be processed with makeinfo(1) (to produce an .info-file) which in turn may be installed using install-info(1). The Info tags @dircategory and @direntry are provided.
- -L The LATEX source is written to the *outfile*. This is useful in conjunction with the -Cname option.
- **-Cname** Output the conditional text for *name*. If more than one name should be given use quotes: **-C** 'name1 name2 ...'

 The following names are defined automatically:
 - -H defines HTML
 - -T defines TEXI
 - -M defines MAN
 - -L defines LATEX
- -achar Is used only in conjunction with -T.

Background:

TexInfo ignores all blanks before the first word on a new line. In order to produce some additional space before that word (using \SP) some character has to be printed before the additional space. By default this is a . (dot). The *char* specifies an alternative for that first character. Giving a blank to **-a** supresses the indentation of a line.

Note: only for the first \SP of a series that *char* is printed.

- **-h** Show a help text.
- **-V** Show version information.

4 Files

latex2man.tex The LATEX file containing this Man-page.

latex2man.sty The LATEX package defining the environments and commands.

latex2man.cfg The configuration file for Latex2man LATEX-package.

 $\label{latex2man.trans} \begin{tabular}{l} {\tt latex2man.trans} \hline \end{tabular} File containing example translations of user defined $\end{tabular} $\end{tabular} X \\ macros.$

fancyheadings.sty A LATEX package used to typeset head- and foot lines.

fancyhdr.sty A LATEX package used to typeset head- and foot lines.

rcsinfo.sty A LATEX package used to extract and use RCS version control information in LATEX documents.

5 See Also

LATEX, TexInfo, troff(1), groff(1), makeinfo(1).

6 LaTeX commands

The LATEX package latex2man is used to write the Man-pages with LATEX. Since we translate into other text formats, not all LATEX stuff can be translated.

6.1 Package Options

The latex2man package accepts the following options:

fancy use the LATEX package fancyheadings.

fancyhdr use the LATEX package fancyhdr.

nofancy neither the LATEX package fancyheadings nor fancyhdr are used.

The default option may be specified in the file latex2man.cfg.

6.2 Package Specific Environments

The following environments are provided by the package:

\begin{Name}{chapter}{name}{author}{info}{title} The Name environment takes five arguments: 1. the Man-page chapter, 2. the name of the Man-page, 3. the author, 4. some short information about the tool printed in the footline of the Man-page, and 5. a text which is used as title, for HTML and Later X (it's ignored for output of the Man-page or TeXinfo. The Name environment must be the first environment in the document. Processing starts with this environment. Any text before this is ignored (exception: the setVersion and setDate commands). (Note: all arguments of \begin{Name} must be written on one line).

\begin{Table}[width]{columns} The Table environment takes two arguments: the first optional one specifies a width of the last column, the second one gives the number of columns. For example:

```
\begin{Table}[2cm]{3}
Here & am & I
                  \\\hline
  A 1 & A 2 & A 3 1 2 3 4 5 A 3 1 2 3 4 5 \\
  B 1 & B 2 & B 3 \\
\end{Table}
will be typeset as:
 Here
       am
             A 3 1 2 3 4 5
 A 1
       A 2
             A 3 1 2 3 4 5
 В 1
       B 2
             B 3
```

If no optional width argument is given, all entries are typeset left justified. The width is a length measured absolutly in cm. Processing with LATEX a p{width} column is typeset as last column. The translation to troff(1) commands results in a lw(width) column specification. Translating to HTML and TexInfo ignores the width parameter.

\hline may be used.

If the Man-page is formatted with troff(1) and tables are used, the tbl(1) preprocessor should be called, usually by giving a **-t** to the call of troff(1). When viewing the generated manula page using man(1), tbl(1) is called automatically.

\begin{Description} is the same as \begin{description}

\begin{Description} [label] is similar to \begin{description}, but the item labels have at minimum the size of the (optional) word label. The difference is visible only in the DVI and PDF-output, not in the troff, TexInfo or HTML output.

```
a |a \begin{description}
ab |ab
abc |abc

a |a \begin{Description}
ab |ab
abc |abc

a |a \begin{Description}[aa]
ab |ab
abc |abc
```

6.3 Accepted LaTeX Environments

The following environments are accepted:

- description
- enumerate
- itemize
- verbatim
- center

They may be nested:

• Itemize and nested center:

A centered line.
Another centered line.

- Another item an nested enumerate
 - 1. a
 - 2. b

6.4 Package Specific Macros

```
The following commands are provided:
```

```
\Opt{option} Option: \Opt{-o} will be typeset as -o.
```

\Arg{argument} Argument: \Arg{filename} will be typeset as filename.

\OptArg{option}{argument} Option with Argument: \OptArg{-o}{filename} will be typeset as -ofilename.

\OptoArg{option}{argument} Option with optional Argument: \OptoArg{-o}{filename} will be typeset as -o[filename].

\oOpt{option} Optional option, e.g. \oOpt{-o} will be typeset as [-o].

\oArg{argument} Optional argument, e.g. \oArg{filename} will be typeset as [filename].

\oOptArg{option}{argument} Optional option with argument, e.g. \oOptArg{-o}{filename} will be typeset as [-ofilename].

\oOptoArg{option}{argument} Optional option with optional argument, e.g. \oOptoArg{-o}{filename} will be typeset as [-o[filename]].

\File{filename} used to typeset filenames, e.g. \File{filename} will be typeset as filename.

 \Prog{prog} used to typeset program names, e.g. $\Prog{latex2man}$ will be typeset as latex2man.

\Cmd{command}{chapter} used to typeset references to other commands, e.g. \Cmd{latex2man}{1} will be typeset as latex2man(1).

\Bar is typeset as |.

 $\backslash \mathbf{Bs}$ (BackSlash) is typeset as \backslash .

\Tilde is typeset as a \sim .

\Dots is typeset as ...

\Bullet us typeset as \bullet .

\setVersion{..} set .. as version information.

\setVersionWord{..} set .. for the word Version: in the footline. The default is \setVersionWord{Version:}.

Version returns the version information.

\setDate{..} sets .. as date information.

Date returns the date information.

```
\Email{..} use to mark an Email address:

\Email{Juergen.Vollmer@informatik-vollmer.de} is typeset as:

Juergen.Vollmer@informatik-vollmer.de.
```

- \URL{..} use to mark an URL: \URL{http://www.foo.de/\Tilde vollmer} is typeset as http://www.foo.de/~vollmer.
- \LatexManEnd the input file is read and processed until reading end-of-file or \LatexManEnd (at the beginning of a line). LATEX ignores this command.
- \Lbr, \Rbr is typeset as [and] (these variants are needed only somtimes like in item[FooBar\LBr xx \Lbr]. Usually [] will work.
- \LBr, \RBr is typeset as { and } (these variants are needed when using { or } as arguments to macros.

```
\Circum is typeset as \hat{\circ}.
```

Percent is typeset as %.

- \TEXbr If processed with LaTeX causes a linebreak (i.e. is equivalent to \\). In the output of latex2man this macro is ignored.
- **TEXIbr** If TexInfo output is generated, causes a linebreak (i.e. is equivalent to \\), otherwise ignored.
- \MANbr If Man-Page output is generated, causes a linebreak (i.e. is equivalent to \\), otherwise ignored.
- \HTMLbr If HTML output is generated, causes a linebreak (i.e. is equivalent to \\), otherwise ignored.

\medskip An empty line.

\SP Produces some extra space, works also at the beginning of lines. The code of the second line looks like: \SP abc \SP\SP xx\\:

```
abc xx
abc xx
abc xx
```

Note: Due to some "problems" with TexInfo, the lines starting with \SP have a leading . (dot) in the TexInfo output, see -achar.

6.5 Accepted Macros from the rcsinfo Package

- \rcsInfo \$Id ...\$ if the LATEX package rcsinfo is used, this command is used to extract the date of the Man-page.
- \rcsInfoLongDate if the LATEX package rcsinfo is used, this command is used to typeset the date coded in the \$Id ..\$ string.

6.6 Accepted LaTeX Macros

The following standard LATEX commands are accepted:

```
\subsection{..} works as well as
\subsubsection{..} those.
\emph{..} \emph{example} is typeset as example.
\textbf{..} \textbf{example} is typeset as example.
\textt{..} \textt{example} is typeset as example.
\underline{..} \underline{example} is typeset as example of underline.
\del{date} uses .. as date.
\ verb+..+ but only + is allowed as delimiter.
\$<\$ is typeset as <.
> is typeset as >.
<= is typeset as <=.
>= is typeset as >=.
= is typeset as =.
<> is typeset as <>.
\ge  is typeset as >.
le is typeset as <.
\Gamma is typeset as \leftarrow.
\Gamma \simeq \ is typeset as \Leftarrow.
\gamma \ is typeset as \rightarrow.
\Lambda  is typeset as \Rightarrow.
\ is typeset as \{.
\} is typeset as \.
\$ is typeset as $.
\$ is typeset as $, should be used inside macro arguments.
\_ is typeset as _.
\ is typeset as &.
\ is typeset as \#.
\ is typeset as \%.
\, is typeset as smaller blank -- (between the two -)
latex2man (1)
                                           Version: 1.23, November 11, 2008
```

\section{..} The section macro takes one argument: the name of the Manpage section. Each Man-page consists of several sections. Usually there are the following sections in a Man-page: Name (special handling as environment, c.f. above), Synopsis, Description, Options, Files, See Also,

Diagnostics, Return Values, Bugs, Author, version, etc.

Note: Do not use LATEX-macros in section names.

Synopsis must be the first section after the Name environment.

```
\- is used to mark hyphenation in a word.
\\ is typeset as a linebreak or marks the end of a column in the Table environ-
\ (a \ followed by a blank) is typeset as a blank, although it cannot be used at
     the beginning of a line to make indentation (see the \SP command).
\sim is typeset as a blank.
\copyright is typeset as ©.
\noindent
\hline inside a Table environment.
\item inside a itemize, enumerate, or description environment.
\today November 11, 2008 (see also the rcsinfo LATEX package).
ss, "a, ...  ss = \beta,  a = \ddot{a},  a = \ddot{a},  u = \ddot{u},  A = \ddot{A},  O = \ddot{O},  U = \ddot{U}.
     It is allowed to surround these macros in { and } in all places, even inside
     other macros, e.g.
           \t \ \textbf{\"a\"o\"u\"A\"0\"U\ss}
           \textbf{äöüÄÖÜß}
```

äöüÄÖÜßäöüÄÖÜß äöüÄÖÜß

If these letters are used in their LATIN-1 8-bit coding, they are translated into the equivalent letter of the desired output format. E.g. Ä becomes Ä in HTML and @"A in texinfo.

6.7 Conditional Text

latex2man preprocesses the IATEX input to allow text to be used conditionally. A special sort of IATEX comment is used for that purpose.

- %@% IF condition %@%
- %@% ELSE %@%
- %@% END-IF %@%

A line must contain only such a comment and nothing else. *condition* is a boolean expression containing "names" and operators. The names given with the **-C**name option have the value "true", while all other names occuring in the expression are assumed to be "false". If the evaluation of the boolean expression results in the value "true", the text in the "then"-part is used and the text in the optional "else"-part is skipped (and vice versa). The IF/ELSE/END-IF may be nested. As boolean operators the following are allowed:

```
|| boolean or
&& boolean and
! negation
```

```
( and ) for grouping are allowed.
For example:
%@% IF abc %@%
    abc set
    %@% IF xyz %@%
       xyz set
    %@% ELSE %@%
       xyz NOT set
    %@% END-IF %@%
%@% ELSE %@%
    abc NOT set
    \%@\% IF xyz || !XYZ \%@\%
       xyz OR !XYZ set
    \%@\% ELSE \%@\%
       xyz OR !XYZ NOT set
    %@% END-IF %@%
%@% END-IF %@%
Run this manual page through latex2man with e.g. -C'abc XYZ' and have a
look to the generated output. (If simply running the LATEX-document through
LATEX, all lines are shown in the .dvi file).
abc set
xyz set
xyz NOT set
abc NOT set
xyz OR !XYZ set
xyz OR !XYZ NOT set
To check the conditional text feature, when latex2man is called with
-CHTML the lines 1a, 2b, 3b, and 4b;
-C TEXI the lines 1b, 2a, 3b, and 4b;
-CMAN the lines 1b, 2b, 3a, and 4b;
-CLATEX the lines 1b, 2b, 3b, and 4a;
calling LATEX without preprocessing all lines
should be shown:
   1a. This text occurs only when viewing the HTML output.
   1b. The HTML conditional was not set.
   2a. This text occurs only when viewing the TEXI output
   2b. The TEXI conditional was not set.
   3a. This text occurs only when viewing the MAN output
   3b. The MAN conditional was not set.
   4a. This text occurs only when viewing the LATEX output
   4b. The LATEX conditional was not set.
```

6.8 Translation of User Defined Macros

The user macro translation file (given by the [-ttransfile]) contains Perl commands specifying the translation of IATEX macros defined by the user. These macros may have none, one or two arguments. The following code is expected:

- Comments start with a # up to the end of the line.
- For a macro \foo with no arguments, the following code must be specified:

• For a macro \foo{..} with one argument, the following code must be specified:

```
Translation to Man-Pages
    $manMacro1a{'foo'} = '...';
    $manMacro1b{'foo'} = '...';

Translation to HTML
    $htmlMacro1a{'foo'} = '...';
    $htmlMacro1b{'foo'} = '...';

Translation to TexInfo
    $texiMacro1a{'foo'} = '...';
    $texiMacro1b{'foo'} = '...';
```

where ... is the translation. The 1a code is used before the argument, while 1b is typeset after the argument is set.

• For a macro \foo{...}{...} with two arguments, the following code must be specified:

```
Translation to Man-Pages
    $manMacro2a{'foo'} = '...';
    $manMacro2b{'foo'} = '...';
    $manMacro2c{'foo'} = '...';

Translation to HTML
    $htmlMacro2a{'foo'} = '...';
    $htmlMacro2b{'foo'} = '...';
    $htmlMacro2c{'foo'} = '...';

Translation to TexInfo
    $texiMacro2a{'foo'} = '...';
    $texiMacro2b{'foo'} = '...';
    $texiMacro2b{'foo'} = '...';
    $texiMacro2c{'foo'} = '...';
}
```

where ... is the translation. The 2a code is used before the first argument, 2b between the two arguments and 2c is typeset after the second argument is set.

• The file latex2man.trans contains some example code.

6.9 Verbatim Environment

6.10 Subsection works

This is a \subsection.

6.10.1 Subsubsection works

This is a \subsubsection.

6.10.2 Subsubsection still works

This is another \subsubsection.

6.11 General Remarks

- 1. Empty lines are typeset as paragraph separators.
- 2. The arguments of the LATEX commands must not be split over several lines.
- 3. Do not nest calls to macros.
- 4. Except the mentioned environment and macros, the usage of other LATEX environments or macros are not translated. Their usage will cause garbage in the output.
- 5. latex2man requires Perl version $>= 5.0004 \pm 03$.
- 6. If you want to install the system with the distributed Makefile, you need GNU-make. If you don't have it, you should execute the steps shown in the Makefile manually.

6.12 Some Bug Fix Tests

Leading . and 'Now leading . and 'in generation troff output should work propperly, since a & is added. Therfore the \Dot macro has been deleted. Thanks to Frank.Schilder@Mathematik.Tu-Ilmenau.De.

```
Testcase 1:
```

```
'\n' ...
Testcase 2:
.foobar Testcase 3:
...
abc ...abc . efg ' 123
```

% in verbatim A % in a \verb and verbatim-environment was not emitted correctly. Thanks to Aleksey Nogin nogin@cs.caltech.edu for the bug report and bug fix.

```
% abc
```

% abc %

but ignore comments following this:

7 Requirements

Perl latex2man requires Perl version $>= 5.0004_03$.

Make If you want to install the system with the distributed Makefile, you need GNU-make. If you don't have it, you should execute the steps shown in the Makefile manually.

LATEX TATEX is required.

8 Changes

Change history of the latex2man package

```
$Id: CHANGES, v 1.60 2008/11/11 07:18:18 vollmer Exp $
      11 Nov 2008
                        - use /usr/bin/env to locate the perl interpreter
1.23
                          Thanks to "J.R. Mauro" < jrm8005-at-gmail.com>
1.22
      05 Dec 2007
                        - Fixed TROFF code generation if none of -H -T -M -L
                          is given.
1.21
       05 Jul 2007
                        - Fixed Makefile
1.20
      24 Apr 2007
                        - Added optional parameter to Table-environment
                        - Fixed generataion of tbl-tables.
1.19
      12 Sep 2005
                        - Thanks to Aleksey Nogin <nogin@cs.caltech.edu> for
```

					his bugfix of the problem he found: "I came across another issue in the latest latex2man - if the source file has "\verb+.foo+" in it, then the ".foo" will be copied to the man page verbatim and if it happens to be placed on the beginning of a line, then troff will consider it to
1 10	00	T 7	0005		be a command and not display it properly."
1.18 1.17		Oct	2005 2004		latex2man.sty: Removed option pdf.
1.17	14	UCL	2004		Fixed order of gerating & for HTML (Thanks to Aleksey Nogin <nogin@cs.caltech.edu>)</nogin@cs.caltech.edu>
1.16	06	Sep	2004		Fixed handling of % in \verb++ and verbatim environments (Thanks to Aleksey Nogin <nogin@cs.caltech.edu>) added \subsubsection</nogin@cs.caltech.edu>
1.15	12	Dec	2001		added extra stuff in the headline of man pages
1.10	12	ВСС	2001		(thanks to Andrew Anderson <aja@emulab.ee.mu.oz.au>)</aja@emulab.ee.mu.oz.au>
1.14	18	June	2001	_	TROFF generation: fixed handling of leading . and '
					removed macro \Dot
1.13	80	May	2001	_	Added \begin{center} / \end{center}.
				-	Reimplemented font changing stuff in TROFF
					generation (use now troff instead of -man commands).
1.12.3	10	Apr	2001		Fixed \oOptArg in man output.
1.12.2	12	Mar	2001	-	Fixed handling of conditional translation to LaTeX (if in a IF ELSE END-IF, the condition evaluates to true, the ELSE and END-IF are written to the result file, but not the IF Now all %0% directives are written.)
1.12.1	13	Sep	2000	-	In $\ensuremath{\mbox{\sc NetVersion}}$ a ~ is replaced by the
					output specific blank.
1.12	28	Aug	2000	-	Fixed error in htmlVerb (thanks to
					Glunz Wolfgang <wolfgang.glunz@icn.siemens.de>)</wolfgang.glunz@icn.siemens.de>
				-	Fixed error in conditional text handling:
1 11	O.E.	۸	2000		(%@%ELSE%@% was not handled correct).
1.11	25	Aug	2000	_	Fixed error in conditional text handling: (MAN was not enabled by default, when calling
					with -M).
				-	Added eror message, if arguments of \begin{Name},
					\section, and \subsection are not contained on a
1.10.1	01	۸., ~	2000		single line. Better handling of \Tilde.
1.10.1		_			added \Begin{Description}[label] (based on an idea of
1.10		oun	2000		Andi Winter <winter@cocolab.de>)</winter@cocolab.de>
				-	Thanks to Andi Winter <winter@cocolab.de>: - fixed: removed wrong line break in date for TROFF output - fixed wrong line breaks in some TROFF macros - fixed wrong output of optional arguments in TROFF - allow spaces between '\item' and following '['</winter@cocolab.de>
1.9.1	20	Mar	2000	-	added \OptoArg \oOptoArg Option with optional argument (Thanks to Andi Winter <winter@cocolab.de>)</winter@cocolab.de>

```
1.9
       13 Mar 2000
                        - latex2man.sty: Added option pdf.
                          latex2man:
                                         define names HTML TEXI MAN LATEX
                                         automatically.
1.8
       11 Feb 2000
                        - Added verbatim environment (many thanks to
                          "Olaf Maibaum" <Maibaum@Informatik.Uni-Oldenburg.DE>
                          who provided me the troff generation code)
                        - Added better handling of german Umlaut
                        - Fixed minor HTML tag mismatch.
1.7.1 17 Nov 1999
                        - Fixed END_IF handling of -L option.
1.7
       25 July 1999
                        - Allow german Umlaute to be written as \"a, etc.
1.6.4 30 May 1999
                        - Added fix of Frank.Schilder@Mathematik.TU-Ilmenau.DE
                          line 418: from
                                if ($manRS == 0 && $list_nest > 0) {
                                if ($manRS == 0 && $list_nest > 1) {
                          line 471: from
                                     manParagraph;
                          to
                                     manParagraph;
1.6.3
       25 Mar 1999
                        - Added \, Math stuff is matched now after macro
                          arguments
1.6.2
       21 Nov 1998
                        - Added \LBr / \RBr, added \setlength{}{} and \itemsep
                          \Dollar $\ge$, $\le$, $\leftarrow$, $\Leftarrow$,
                          $\rightarrow$, $\Rightarrow$.
1.6.1
        14 Sep 1998
                        - Added $<=$, $>=$, $=$ $<>$.
1.6
        08 Sep 1998
                        - Added \SP macro.
                        - Hyphenation \- is translated for TexInfo into @-.
                        - Runs now under older Versions of Perl (e.g. 5.03).
1.5
        22 Aug 1998
                        - Support for the fanyhdr package, added latex2man.cfg
                        - Now \% and \- work.
1.4
        23 July 1998
                        - Fixed typos.
                        - Fixed generated HTML
                             The following is wrong: <a ..> <h..>....</h..></a>
                             Correct is:
                                                     <h..><a ..>...</a></h..>
                        - Add conditional text feature
1.3
        03 June 1998
1 2
        18 Jan 1998
                        - Enumerate/itemize/description environments may
                          be nested now.
                        - Output specific line break macros.
1.1
        14 Jan
                1998
                        - Fixed bug in HTML generation (no blanks emited
                          after \hline)
1.0
        11 Jan 1998
                        - Initial version
```

Please check the file latex2man-CHANGES for the list of changes.

9 Version

Version: 1.23 of November 11, 2008.

10 License and Copyright

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The actual version of *Latex2man* may be found on my homepage http://www.informatik-vollmer.de/software/latex2man.html.

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