NAME

fmt – simple text formatters

SYNOPSIS

fmt [–**c**] [–**s**] [–**w** *width* | –*width*] [*inputfile*…]

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

fmt is a simple text formatter that fills and joins lines to produce output lines of (up to) the number of characters specified in the –**w** *width* option. The default *width* is 72. **fmt** concatenates the *inputfile*s listed as arguments. If none are given, **fmt** formats text from the standard input.

Blank lines are preserved in the output, as is the spacing between words. **fmt** does not fill lines beginning with a '**.**' (dot), for compatibility with **nroff**(1). Nor does it fill lines starting with "**From:**".

Indentation is preserved in the output, and input lines with differing indentation are not joined (unless –**c** is used).

fmt can also be used as an in-line text filter for **vi**(1); the **vi** command:

!}fmt

reformats the text between the cursor location and the end of the paragraph.

OPTIONS

–**c** Crown margin mode. Preserve the indentation of the first two lines within a paragraph, and align the left margin of each subsequent line with that of the second line. This is useful for tagged paragraphs.

–**s** Split lines only. Do not join short lines to form longer ones. This prevents sample lines of code, and other such formatted text, from being unduly combined.

–**w** *width* | –*width*
Fill output lines to up to *width* columns.

ENVIRONMENT

If any of the **LC_*** variables (**LC_CTYPE, LC_MESSAGES, LC_TIME, LC_COLLATE, LC_NUMERIC,** and **LC_MONETARY**) (see **environ**(5)) are not set in the environment, the operational behavior of **fmt** for each corresponding locale category is determined by the value of the **LANG** environment variable. If **LC_ALL** is set, its contents are used to override both the **LANG** and the other **LC_*** variables. If none of the above variables is set in the environment, the "C" (U.S. style) locale determines how **fmt** behaves.

LC_CTYPE
Determines how **fmt** handles characters. When **LC_CTYPE** is set to a valid value, **fmt** can display and handle text and filenames containing valid characters for that locale. **fmt** can display and handle Extended Unix Code (EUC) characters where any individual character can be 1, 2, or 3 bytes wide. **fmt** can also handle EUC characters of 1, 2, or more column widths. In the "C" locale, only characters from ISO 8859-1 are valid.

SEE ALSO

nroff(1), **vi**(1)

NOTES

The −*width* option is acceptable for BSD compatibility, but it may go away in future releases.