NAME

man – find and display reference manual pages

SYNOPSIS

man [–] [**–adFlrt**] [**–M** *path*] [**–T** *macro-package*] [**–s** *section*] *name* . . .
man [**–M** *path*] **–k** *keyword* . . .
man [**–M** *path*] **–f** *file* . . .

AVAILABILITY

SUNWdoc

DESCRIPTION

The **man** command displays information from the reference manuals. It displays complete manual pages that you select by *name*, or one-line summaries selected either by *keyword* (**–k**), or by the name of an associated file (**–f**). If no manual page is located, **man** prints an error message.

Location of Manual Pages

The reference page sources are typically located in the **/usr/share/man/man**∗ or **/usr/man/man**∗ directories, with each directory corresponding to a section of the manual. Since these directories are optionally installed, they may not reside on your host; you may have to mount **/usr/share/man** from a host on which they do reside. If there are preformatted, up-to-date versions in the corresponding **cat**∗ or **fmt**∗ directories, **man** simply displays or prints those versions. If the preformatted version of interest is out of date or missing, **man** reformats it prior to display and will store the preformatted version if **cat?** or **fmt?** is writable. The **windex** database is not updated. See **catman**(1M). If directories for the preformatted versions are not provided, **man** reformats a page whenever it is requested; it uses a temporary file to store the formatted text during display.

If the standard output is not a terminal, or if the '–' flag is given, **man** pipes its output through **cat**(1); otherwise, **man** pipes its output through **more**(1) to handle paging and underlining on the screen.

OPTIONS

The following options are supported:

–a Show all manual pages matching *name* within the **MANPATH** search path. Manual pages are displayed in the order found.

–d Debug. Displays what a section-specifier evaluates to, method used for searching, and paths searched by **man**.

–f *file. . .* **man** attempts to locate manual pages related to any of the given *file*s. It strips the leading path name components from each *file*, and then prints one-line summaries containing the resulting basename or names. This option also uses the **windex** database.

–F Force **man** to search all directories specified by **MANPATH** or the **man.cf** file, rather than using the **windex** lookup database. This is useful if the database is not up to date. If the **windex** database does not exist, this option is assumed.

–k *keyword . . .*
Print out one-line summaries from the **windex** database (table of contents) that contain any of the given *keyword*s. The **windex** database is created using **catman**(1M).

–l List all manual pages found matching *name* within the search path.

–M *path* Specify an alternate search path for manual pages. *path* is a colon-separated list of directories that contain manual page directory subtrees. For example, if *path* is **/usr/share/man:/usr/local/man**, **man** searches for *name* in the standard location, and then **/usr/local/man**. When used with the –**k** or –**f** options, the –**M** option must appear first. Each directory in the *path* is assumed to contain subdirectories of the form **man***, one for each section. This option overrides the **MANPATH** environment variable.

–r Reformat the manual page, but do not display it. This replaces the **man** – –**t** *name* combination.

–s *section* . . .
Specify sections of the manual for **man** to search. The directories searched for *name* is limited to those specified by *section*. *section* can be a digit (perhaps followed by one or more letters), a word (for example: local, new, old, public), or a letter. To specify multiple sections, separate each section with a comma. This option overrides the **MANPATH** environment variable and the **man.cf** file. See **Search Paths** below for an explanation of how **man** conducts its search.

–t **man** arranges for the specified manual pages to be **troff**ed to a suitable raster output device (see **troff**(1). If both the – and –**t** flags are given, **man** updates the **troff**ed versions of each named *name* (if necessary), but does not display them.

–T *macro-package*
Format manual pages using *macro-package* rather than the standard –**man** macros defined in **/usr/share/lib/tmac/an**. See **Search Path** under USAGE for a complete explanation of the default search path order.

OPERANDS

The following operand is supported:

name A keyword or the name of a standard utility.

USAGE

Manual Page Sections

Entries in the reference manuals are organized into *sections*. A section name consists of a major section name, typically a single digit, optionally followed by a subsection name, typically one or more letters. An unadorned major section name acts as an abbreviation for the section of the same name along with all of its subsections. Each section contains descriptions apropos to a particular reference category, with subsections refining these distinctions. See the **intro** manual pages for an explanation of the classification used in this release.

Search Path

Before searching for a given *name*, **man** constructs a list of candidate directories and sections. **man** searches for *name* in the directories specified by the **MANPATH** environment variable. If this variable is not set, **/usr/share/man** is searched by default.

Within the manual page directories, **man** confines its search to the sections specified in the following order:

- *section*s specified on the command line with the –**s** option
- *section*s embedded in the **MANPATH** environment variable
- *section*s specified in the **man.cf** file for each directory specified in the **MANPATH** environment variable

If none of the above exist, **man** searches each directory in the manual page path, and displays the first matching manual page found.

The **man.cf** file has the following format:

MANSECTS=*section*[,*section*] . . .

Lines beginning with '#' and blank lines are considered comments, and are ignored. Each directory specified in **MANPATH** can contain a manual page configuration file, specifying the default search order for that directory.

Formatting Manual Pages

Manual pages are **troff**(1) or **nroff**(1) source files prepared with the –**man** macro package. Please refer to **man**(5) for more information.

Preprocessing Manual Pages

When formatting a manual page, **man** examines the first line to determine whether it requires special processing. If the first line is a string of the form:

´\" *X*

where *X* is separated from the '"' by a single SPACE and consists of any combination of characters in the following list, **man** pipes its input to **troff**(1) or **nroff**(1) through the corresponding preprocessors.

e	**eqn**(1), or **neqn** for **nroff**
r	**refer**(1)
t	**tbl**(1)
v	**vgrind**(1)

If **eqn** or **neqn** is invoked, it will automatically read the file **/usr/pub/eqnchar** (see **eqnchar**(5)). If **nroff**(1) is invoked, **col**(1) is automatically used.

Referring to Other Manual Pages

If the first line of the manual page is a reference to another manual page entry fitting the pattern:

.so man∗/ *sourcefile*

man processes the indicated file in place of the current one. The reference must be expressed as a path name relative to the root of the manual page directory subtree.

When the second or any subsequent line starts with **.so**, **man** ignores it; **troff**(1) or **nroff**(1) processes the request in the usual manner.

ENVIRONMENT

See **environ**(5) for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **man**: **LC_CTYPE**, **LC_MESSAGES**, and **NLSPATH**.

MANPATH A colon-separated list of directories; each directory can be followed by a comma-separated list of sections. If set, its value overrides **/usr/share/man** as the default directory search path, and the **man.cf** file as the default section search path. The −**M** and −**s** flags, in turn, override these values.)

PAGER A program to use for interactively delivering **man**'s output to the screen. If not set, '**more** −**s**' (see **more**(1)) is used.

TCAT The name of the program to use to display **troff**ed manual pages.

TROFF The name of the formatter to use when the −**t** flag is given. If not set, **troff**(1) is used.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 Successful completion.

>0 An error occurred.

FILES

/usr/share/man	root of the standard manual page directory subtree
/usr/share/man/man?/*	unformatted manual entries
/usr/share/man/cat?/*	**nroff**ed manual entries
/usr/share/man/fmt?/*	**troff**ed manual entries
/usr/share/man/windex	table of contents and keyword database
/usr/share/lib/tmac/an	standard −**man** macro package
/usr/share/lib/pub/eqnchar	standard definitions for **eqn** and **neqn**
man.cf	default search order by section

SEE ALSO

apropos(1), **cat**(1), **col**(1), **eqn**(1), **more**(1), **nroff**(1), **refer**(1), **tbl**(1), **troff**(1), **vgrind**(1), **whatis**(1), **catman**(1M), **environ**(5), **eqnchar**(5), **man**(5)

NOTES

Because **troff** is not 8-bit clean, **man** has not been made 8-bit clean.

The −**f** and −**k** options use the **/usr/share/man/windex** database, which is created by **catman**(1M).

BUGS

The manual is supposed to be reproducible either on a phototypesetter or on an ASCII terminal. However, on a terminal some information (indicated by font changes, for instance) is lost.

Some dumb terminals cannot process the vertical motions produced by the **e** (see **eqn**(1)) preprocessing flag. To prevent garbled output on these terminals, when you use **e** also use **t**, to invoke **col**(1) implicitly. This workaround has the disadvantage of eliminating superscripts and subscripts — even on those terminals that can display them. CTRL-Q will clear a terminal that gets confused by **eqn**(1) output.