



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'nroff.1'

\$ man nroff.1

nroff(1) General Commands Manual nroff(1)

Name

nroff - format documents with groff for TTY (terminal) devices

Synopsis

nroff [-bcCEhikpRStUVz] [-d ctext] [-d string=text] [-K fallback-encoding] [-m macro-package] [-M macro-directory] [-n page-number] [-o page-list] [-P postprocessor-argument] [-r cnumeric-expression] [-r register=numeric-expression] [-T output-device] [-w warning-category] [-W warning-category] [file ...]

nroff --help

nroff -v

nroff --version

Description

nroff formats documents written in the groff(7) language for typewriter-like devices such as terminal emulators. GNU nroff emulates the AT&T nroff command using groff(1). nroff generates output via gotty(1), groff's terminal output driver, which needs to know the character encoding scheme used by the device. Consequently, acceptable arguments to the -T option are ascii, latin1, utf8, and cp1047; any others are ignored. If neither the GROFF_TYPESETTER environment variable nor the -T command-line option (which overrides the environment variable) specifies a (valid) device, nroff consults the locale to select an appropriate output device. It first tries the locale(1) program, then checks several locale-related environment variables; see section ?Environment? below. If all of the foregoing fail, -Tascii is implied.

The -b, -c, -C, -d, -E, -i, -m, -M, -n, -o, -r, -U, -w, -W, and -z options have the effects

described in `troff(1)`. `-c` and `-h` imply `?-P-c?` and `?-P-h?`, respectively; `-c` is also interpreted directly by `troff`. In addition, this implementation ignores the AT&T `nroff` options `-e`, `-q`, and `-s` (which are not implemented in `groff`). The options `-k`, `-K`, `-p`, `-P`, `-R`, `-t`, and `-S` are documented in `groff(1)`. `-V` causes `nroff` to display the constructed `groff` command on the standard output stream, but does not execute it. `-v` and `--version` show version information about `nroff` and the programs it runs, while `--help` displays a usage message; all exit afterward.

Exit status

`nroff` exits with error status 2 if there was a problem parsing its arguments, with status 0 if any of the options `-V`, `-v`, `--version`, or `--help` were specified, and with the status of `groff` otherwise.

Environment

Normally, the path separator in environment variables ending with `PATH` is the colon; this may vary depending on the operating system. For example, Windows uses a semicolon instead.

GROFF_BIN_PATH

is a colon-separated list of directories in which to search for the `groff` executable before searching in `PATH`. If unset, `/usr/bin` is used.

GROFF_TYPESETTER

specifies the default output device for `groff`.

LC_ALL

LC_CTYPE

LANG

LESSCHARSET

are pattern-matched in this order for contents matching standard character encodings supported by `groff` in the event no `-T` option is given and `GROFF_TYPESETTER` is unset, or the values specified are invalid.

Files

`/usr/share/groff/1.23.0/tmac/tty-char.tmac`

defines fallback definitions of `roff` special characters. These definitions more poorly optically approximate typeset output than those of `tty.tmac` in favor of communicating semantic information. `nroff` loads it automatically.

Notes

Pager programs like `more(1)` and `less(1)` may require command-line options to correctly handle

some output sequences; see grotty(1).

See also

groff(1), troff(1), grotty(1), locale(1), roff(7)

groff 1.23.0

2 December 2025

nroff(1)