NAME

groff_filenames — filename extensions for roff and groff

DESCRIPTION

Since the evolution of *roff* in the 1970s, a whole bunch of filename extensions for *roff* files were used.

The *roff* extensions refer to preprocessors or macro packages. These extensions are fixed in all *Unix*-like operating systems.

Later on, **groff** added some more extensions. We will now write a *man-page about these filename extensions.*

COMPRESSION OF ROFF FILES

Each *roff* file can be optionally *compressed*. That means that the *total filename* ends with a *compressor name*. So the whole filename has the structure *<name>.<extension>[.<compression>]*.

Mostly known are the *compressor extensions* **.Z**, **.gz**, and **.bzip2**. Relatively new is **.xz**.

From now on, we will ignore the *compressions* and only comment the structure *<name>.<extension>*.

MAN–PAGES

The *Unix manual pages* are shortly named *man-pages*. The *man-page* style is the best known part of the *roff* language.

The extensions for *man* should be better documented. So this is documented here.

Files written in the *man* language use the following extension: ***.**<section>[<group>].

Man-page Sections

The traditional *man-page <section>* is a digit from **1** to **8**.

<name>.**1**
<name>.**2**
<name>.**3**
<name>.**4**
<name>.**5**
<name>.**6**
<name>.**7**
<name>.**8**
> Classic man-page *sections.*

Linux added the section number **9** for kernel man-pages.

<name>.**9**
> *Linux* kernel man-pages

In older commercial *Unix* systems, the 3 characters **l**, **n**, and **o** were also used as *section* names. This is today *deprecated*, but there are still documents in this format.

<name>.**l**
<name>.**n**
<name>.**o**
> *Deprecated* old *man-page sections.*

Man–page Group Extensions

The *<group>* extension in **.**<section>[<group>] is optional, but it can be any string of word characters. Usually programmers use a group name that is already used, e.g. **x** for *X Window System* documents or **tk** to refer to the *tk* programming language.

Examples:

groff.1
> is the man-page for **groff** in *section* **1** without a *group*

xargs.1posix.gz
> is the man-page for the program **xargs** in *section* **1** and *group* **posix**; moreover it is *compressed* with **gz** (**gzip**).

config.5ssl
> *OpenSSL CONF* library configuration files from *section* **5** with *group* **ssl**.

dpkg-reconfigure.8cdebconf
> man-page for the program **dpkg-reconfigure** in *section* **8** and *group* **cdebconf**.

Source of Man–pages

There are 2 *roff* languages for writing man-pages: **man** and **mdoc**.

The names of these 2 styles are taken as *extensions* for the source code files of man-pages in the *groff* package.

<name>.**man**
> *traditional* Unix-like man-page format within groff source files.

<name>.**n**
> A temporary man-page file produced from a *name*.**man** man-page by a run of **make** within the **groff** source package.

<name>.**mdoc**
> Man-page format in BSD.

<name>.**1b**
> Man-page format in *heirloom roff* .

<name>.**mandoc**
> Files using this extension recognize both man-page formats in **groff** and other processors.

TRADITIONAL TROFF EXTENSIONS

Files Using Macro Packages

The *classical roff* languages were interpreted by the traditional **troff** and **nroff** programs.

There were several *roff* languages, each represented by a *macro-package*. Each of these provided a suitable file name *extension*:

<name>.**me**
> *roff* file using the **me** *macro package.*

<name>.**mm**
> *roff* file using the **mm** *macro package*

<name>.**ms**
> *roff* file using the **ms** *macro package*

All of these classical *roff* languages and their extensions are still very active in **groff**.

Source Code for Macro Packages (TMAC Files)

In traditional *roff* the source code for the macro packages was stored in *TMAC* files. Their file names have the form:

tmac.*<package>*,
> *<package>* is the name of the macro package without the leading **m** character, which is reintegrated by the option **-m**.

For example, **tmac.an** is the source for the **man** macro package.

In the **groff** source, more suitable file names were integrated, see later on.

Preprocessors

Moreover, the following *preprocessors* were used as filename extension:

<name>.**chem**

   for the integration of chemical formulas

<name>.**eqn**

   for the mathematical use of equations

<name>.**pic**

   graphical tool

<name>.**tbl**

   for tables with *tbl*

<name>.**ref**

   for files using the **prefer** *preprocessor*

Classical Roff Files

<name>.**t**
<name>.**tr**

   for files using the *roff* language of any kind

NEW GROFF EXTENSIONS

GNU roff **groff** is the actual *roff* standard, both for classical *roff* and new extensions. So even the used new extensions in the source code should be regarded as actual standard. The following extensions are used instead of classical **.t** or **.tr**:

<name>.**groff**
<name>.**roff**

   general ending for files using the *groff language*

Source Code for Macro Packages (TMAC Files)

As the classical form **tmac.***<package_without_m>*, of the *TMAC* file names is quite strange, *groff* added the following structures:

<package_without_m>.**tmac**
m*<package>*.**tmac**
groff_m*<package>*.**tmac**

Files Using new Macro Packages

Groff uses the following new macro packages:

<name>.**mmse**

   file with swedish **mm** *macros* for **groff**

<name>.**mom**

   files written in the *groff macro package* **mom**

<name>.**www**

   files written in **HTML**-like *groff macros*.

Preprocessors and Postprocessors

<name>.**hdtbl**

   a new *tbl* format. See groff_hdtbl(7).

<name>.**grap**

   files written for the graphical **grap** processor.

<name>.**grn**

   for including **gremlin(1),** pictures, see grn(1).

<name>.**pdfroff**

   transform this file with **pdfroff** of the *groff* system

SEE ALSO

History and future
> roff(7), man-pages(7), groff_diff(7), groff(7)

Compression
> **uncompress**(1posix), **gzip2(1),** bzip2(1), xz(1)

A man-page of the naming form *name*(*n*) can be read in text mode by
> `man n name`

or in graphical mode (PDF) by
> `groffer n name`

.I Gunnar Ritters Heirloom roff project. You can get this package with the shell command:
> `$ git clone https://github.com/n-t-roff/heirloom-doctools`

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AUTHORS

This file was written by Bernd Warken.