NAME

catman - create or update the pre-formatted manual pages

SYNOPSIS

catman [**-d?V**] [**-M** *path*] [**-C** *file*] [*section*] ...

DESCRIPTION

catman is used to create an up to date set of pre-formatted manual pages known as cat pages. Cat pages are generally much faster to display than the original manual pages, but require extra storage space. The decision to support cat pages is that of the local administrator, who must provide suitable directories to contain them.

The options available to **catman** are the manual page hierarchies and sections to pre-format. The default hierarchies are those specified as system hierarchies in the man-db configuration file, and the default sections are either the colon-delimited contents of the environment variable **$MANSECT** or the standard set compiled into **man** if **$MANSECT** is undefined. Supplying **catman** with a set of whitespace-delimited section names will override both of the above.

catman makes use of the **index** database cache associated with each hierarchy to determine which files need to be formatted.

OPTIONS

-d, **--debug**

Print debugging information.

-M path, **--manpath=path**

Specify an alternate colon-delimited manual page hierarchy search path. By default, this is all paths indicated as system hierarchies in the man-db configuration file.

-C file, **--config-file=file**

Use this user configuration file rather than the default of *˜/.manpath*.

-?, **--help**

Print a help message and exit.

--usage

Print a short usage message and exit.

-V, **--version**

Display version information.

ENVIRONMENT

MANSECT

If **$MANSECT** is set, its value is a colon-delimited list of sections and it is used to determine which manual sections to search and in what order. The default is 1 n l 8 3 2 3posix 3pm 3perl 5 4 9 6 7, unless overridden by the **SECTION** directive in */etc/man-path.config*.

MANPATH

If **$MANPATH** is set, its value is interpreted as the colon-delimited manual page hierarchy search path to use.

FILES

/etc/manpath.config

man-db configuration file.

/usr/man/index.(bt|db|dir|pag)

A traditional global *index* database cache.

/var/catman/index.(bt|db|dir|pag)

An alternate or FSSTND compliant global *index* database cache.

SEE ALSO

man(1), manpath(5), mandb(8)

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