

## Name

nroff – format documents with *groff* for TTY (terminal) devices

## Synopsis

**nroff** [**-bcCEhikpRStUVz**] [**-d** *c*text] [**-d** *string=text*] [**-K** *fallback-encoding*] [**-m** *macro-package*] [**-M** *macro-directory*] [**-n** *page-number*] [**-o** *page-list*] [**-P** *postprocessor-argument*] [**-r** *c*numeric-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 *grotty*(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/local/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/local/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)