NAME

mandb − create or update the manual page index caches

SYNOPSIS

mandb [**−dqsucpt?V**] [**−C** *file*] [*manpath*]
mandb [**−dqsut**] [**−C** *file*] **−f** *filename* ...

DESCRIPTION

mandb is used to initialise or manually update **index** database caches that are usually maintained by **man**. The caches contain information relevant to the current state of the manual page system and the information stored within them is used by the man-db utilities to enhance their speed and functionality.

When creating or updating an **index**, **mandb** will warn of bad ROFF .so requests, bogus manual page filenames and manual pages from which the **whatis** cannot be parsed.

Supplying **mandb** with an optional colon-delimited path will override the internal system manual page hierarchy search path, determined from information found within the man-db configuration file.

DATABASE CACHES

mandb can be compiled with support for any one of the following database types.

Name	Type	Async	Filename
Berkeley db	Binary tree	Yes	*index.bt*
GNU gdbm	Hashed	Yes	*index.db*
UNIX ndbm	Hashed	No	*index.(dir|pag)*

Those database types that support asynchronous updates provide enhanced speed at the cost of possible corruption in the event of unusual termination. In an unusual case where this has occurred, it may be necessary to rerun **mandb** with the **−c** option to re-create the databases from scratch.

OPTIONS

−d, **−−debug**
Print debugging information.

−q, **−−quiet**
Produce no warnings.

−s, **−−no-straycats**
Do not spend time looking for or adding information to the databases regarding stray cats.

−p, **−−no-purge**
Do not spend time checking for deleted manual pages and purging them from the databases.

−c, **−−create**
By default, **mandb** will try to update any previously created databases. If a database does not exist, it will create it. This option forces **mandb** to delete previous databases and re-create them from scratch, and implies **−−no-purge.** This may be necessary if a database becomes corrupt or if a new database storage scheme is introduced in the future.

−u, **−−user-db**
Create user databases only, even with write permissions necessary to create system databases.

−t, **−−test**
Perform correctness checks on manual pages in the hierarchy search path. With this option, **mandb** will not alter existing databases.

−f, **−−filename**
Update only the entries for the given filename. This option is not for general use; it is used internally by **man** when it has been compiled with the **MAN_DB_UPDATES** option and finds that a page is out of date. It implies **−p** and disables **−c** and **−s**.

−C *file*, **−−config−file=***file*
Use this user configuration file rather than the default of *~/.manpath*.

−?, **−−help**
Show the usage message, then exit.

−−usage
Print a short usage message and exit.

−V, **−−version**
Show the version, then exit.

EXIT STATUS

0 Successful program execution.

1 Usage, syntax, or configuration file error.

2 Operational error.

3 A child process failed.

DIAGNOSTICS

The following warning messages can be emitted during database building.

<filename>: whatis parse for page(sec) failed
An attempt to extract whatis line(s) from the given <filename> failed. This is usually due to a poorly written manual page, but if many such messages are emitted it is likely that the system contains non-standard manual pages which are incompatible with the man-db whatis parser. See the **WHATIS PARSING** section in **lexgrog**(1) for more information.

<filename>: is a dangling symlink
<filename> does not exist but is referenced by a symbolic link. Further diagnostics are usually emitted to identify the <filename> of the offending link.

<filename>: bad symlink or ROFF '.so' request
<filename> is either a symbolic link to, or contains a ROFF include request to, a non existent file.

<filename>: ignoring bogus filename
The <filename> may or may not be a valid manual page but its name is invalid. This is usually due to a manual page with sectional extension <x> being put in manual page section <y>.

<filename_mask>: competing extensions
The wildcard <filename_mask> is not unique. This is usually caused by the existence of both a compressed and uncompressed version of the same manual page. All but the most recent are ignored.

FILES

/etc/manpath.config
man-db configuration file.

/var/cache/man/index.(bt|db|dir|pag)
An FHS compliant global *index* database cache.

Older locations for the database cache included:

/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

lexgrog(1), **man**(1), **manpath**(5), **catman**(8)

The **WHATIS PARSING** section formerly in this manual page is now part of **lexgrog**(1).

AUTHOR

Wilf. (G.Wilford@ee.surrey.ac.uk).
Fabrizio Polacco (fpolacco@debian.org).
Colin Watson (cjwatson@debian.org).