NAME

debdiff − compare file lists in two Debian packages

SYNOPSIS

debdiff [*options*]
debdiff [*options*] ... *deb1 deb2*
debdiff [*options*] ... *changes1 changes2*
debdiff [*options*] ... **−−from** *deb1a deb1b* ... **−−to** *deb2a deb2b* ...
debdiff [*options*] ... *dsc1 dsc2*

DESCRIPTION

debdiff takes the names of two Debian package files (*.deb*s or *.udeb*s) on the command line and compares their contents (considering only the files in the main package, not the maintenance scripts). It shows which files have been introduced and which removed between the two package files, and is therefore useful for spotting files which may have been inadvertently lost between revisions of the package. It also checks the file owners and permissions, and compares the control files of the two packages using the **wdiff** program. If you want a deeper comparison of two Debian package files you can use the **diffoscope** tool.

If no arguments are given, **debdiff** tries to compare the content of the current source directory with the last version of the package.

debdiff can also handle changes between groups of *.deb* files in two ways. The first is to specify two *.changes* files. In this case, the *.deb* files listed in the *.changes* file will be compared, by taking the contents of all of the listed *.deb* files together. (The *.deb* files listed are assumed to be in the same directory as the *.changes* file.) The second way is to list the *.deb* files of interest specifically using the **−−from** ... **−−to** syntax. These both help if a package is broken up into smaller packages and one wishes to ensure that nothing is lost in the interim.

debdiff examines the **devscripts** configuration files as described below. Command line options override the configuration file settings, though.

If **debdiff** is passed two source packages (*.dsc* files) it will compare the contents of the source packages. If the source packages differ only in Debian revision number (that is, the *.orig.tar.gz* files are the same in the two *.dsc* files), then **interdiff**(1) will be used to compare the two patch files if this program is available on the system, otherwise a **diff** will be performed between the two source trees.

OPTIONS

−−dirs, **−d**
> The default mode of operation is to ignore directory names which appear in the file list, but they, too, will be considered if this option is given.

−−nodirs
> Ignore directory names which appear in the file list. This is the default and it can be used to override a configuration file setting.

−−move *FROM TO*, **−m** *FROM TO*
> It sometimes occurs that various files or directories are moved around between revisions. This can be handled using this option. There are two arguments, the first giving the location of the directory or file in the first package, and the second in the second. Any files in the first listing whose names begin with the first argument are treated as having that substituted for the second argument when the file lists are compared. Any number of **−−move** arguments may be given; they are processed in the order in which they appear. This only affects comparing binary packages, not source packages.

−−move−regex *FROM TO*
> This is the same as **−−move**, except that *FROM* is treated as a regular expression and the **perl** substitution command *s/ˆFROM/TO/* is applied to the files. In particular, TO can make use of backreferences such as $1.

−−nocontrol

        debdiff will usually compare the respective control files of the packages using **wdiff**(1). This option suppresses this part of the processing.

−−control

        Compare the respective control files; this is the default, and it can be used to override a configuration file setting.

−−controlfiles *FILE*[**,***FILE* ...]

        Specify which control files to compare; by default this is just *control*, but could include *postinst*, *config* and so on. Files will only be compared if they are present in both *.debs* being compared. The special value *ALL* compares all control files present in both packages, except for md5sums. This option can be used to override a configuration file setting.

−−wdiff−source−control

        When processing source packages, compare control files using **wdiff**. Equivalent to the **−−control** option for binary packages.

−−no−wdiff−source−control

        Do not compare control files in source packages using **wdiff**. This is the default.

−−wp, **−−wl**, **−−wt**

        Pass a **−p**, **−l** or **−t** option to **wdiff** respectively. (This yields the whole **wdiff** output rather than just the lines with any changes.)

−−show-moved

        If multiple *.deb* files are specified on the command line, either using *.changes* files or the **−−from/−−to** syntax, then this option will also show which files (if any) have moved between packages. (The package names are simply determined from the names of the *.deb* files.)

−−noshow-moved

        The default behaviour; can be used to override a configuration file setting.

−−renamed *FROM TO*

        If **−−show-moved** is being used and a package has been renamed in the process, this command instructs **debdiff** to treat the package in the first list called *FROM* as if it were called *TO*. Multiple uses of this option are permitted.

−−exclude *PATTERN*

        Exclude files that match *PATTERN*. Multiple uses of this option are permitted.

−−diffstat

        Include the result of **diffstat** before the generated diff.

−−no−diffstat

        The default behaviour; can be used to override a configuration file setting.

−−auto−ver−sort

        When comparing source packages, do so in version order.

−−no−auto−ver−sort

        Compare source packages in the order they were passed on the command-line, even if that means comparing a package with a higher version against one with a lower version. This is the default behaviour.

−−unpack−tarballs

        When comparing source packages, also unpack tarballs found in the top level source directory to compare their contents along with the other files. This is the default behaviour.

−−no−unpack−tarballs

        Do not unpack tarballs inside source packages.

−−no-conf, **−−noconf**

> Do not read any configuration files. This can only be used as the first option given on the command-line.

−−debs−dir *directory*

> Look for the *.dsc* files in *directory* instead of the parent of the source directory. This should either be an absolute path or relative to the top of the source directory.

−−help, **−h**

> Show a summary of options.

−−version, **−v**

> Show version and copyright information.

−−quiet, **−q**

> Be quiet if no differences were found.

−−ignore−space, **−w**

> Ignore whitespace in diffs.

CONFIGURATION VARIABLES

The two configuration files */etc/devscripts.conf* and *˜/.devscripts* are sourced by a shell in that order to set configuration variables. Command line options can be used to override configuration file settings. Environment variable settings are ignored for this purpose. The currently recognised variables are:

DEBDIFF_DIRS

> If this is set to *yes*, then it is the same as the **−−dirs** command line parameter being used.

DEBDIFF_CONTROL

> If this is set to *no*, then it is the same as the **−−nocontrol** command line parameter being used. The default is *yes*.

DEBDIFF_CONTROLFILES

> Which control files to compare, corresponding to the **−−controlfiles** command line option. The default is *control*.

DEBDIFF_SHOW_MOVED

> If this is set to *yes*, then it is the same as the **−−show−moved** command line parameter being used.

DEBDIFF_WDIFF_OPT

> This option will be passed to **wdiff**; it should be one of **−p**, **−l** or **−t**.

DEBDIFF_SHOW_DIFFSTAT

> If this is set to *yes*, then it is the same as the **−−diffstat** command line parameter being used.

DEBDIFF_WDIFF_SOURCE_CONTROL

> If this is set to *yes*, then it is the same as the **−−wdiff−source−control** command line parameter being used.

DEBDIFF_AUTO_VER_SORT

> If this is set to *yes*, then it is the same as the **−−auto−ver−sort** command line parameter being used.

DEBDIFF_UNPACK_TARBALLS

> If this is set to *no*, then it is the same as the **−−no−unpack−tarballs** command line parameter being used.

DEBRELEASE_DEBS_DIR

> This specifies the directory in which to look for the *.dsc* and files, and is either an absolute path or relative to the top of the source tree. This corresponds to the **−−debs−dir** command line option. This directive could be used, for example, if you always use **pbuilder** or **svn-buildpackage** to build your packages. Note that it also affects **debrelease**(1) in the same way, hence the strange name of the option.

EXIT VALUES

> Normally the exit value will be 0 if no differences are reported and 1 if any are reported. If there is some fatal error, the exit code will be 255.

SEE ALSO

> **debdiff-apply**(1), **diffstat**(1), **dpkg-deb**(1), **interdiff**(1), **wdiff**(1), **devscripts.conf**(5), **diffoscope**(1)

AUTHOR

> **debdiff** was originally written as a shell script by Yann Dirson <dirson@debian.org> and rewritten in Perl with many more features by Julian Gilbey <jdg@debian.org>. The software may be freely redistributed under the terms and conditions of the GNU General Public License, version 2.