

**NAME**

msgcat – combines several message catalogs

**SYNOPSIS**

**msgcat** [*OPTION*] [*INPUTFILE*]...

**DESCRIPTION**

Concatenates and merges the specified PO files. Find messages which are common to two or more of the specified PO files. By using the **---more-than** option, greater commonality may be requested before messages are printed. Conversely, the **---less-than** option may be used to specify less commonality before messages are printed (i.e. **---less-than=2** will only print the unique messages). Translations, comments, extracted comments, and file positions will be cumulated, except that if **---use-first** is specified, they will be taken from the first PO file to define them.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

**Input file location:**

*INPUTFILE* ...

input files

**-f, ---files-from=FILE**

get list of input files from FILE

**-D, ---directory=DIRECTORY**

add DIRECTORY to list for input files search

If input file is -, standard input is read.

**Output file location:**

**-o, ---output-file=FILE**

write output to specified file

The results are written to standard output if no output file is specified or if it is -.

**Message selection:**

**-<, ---less-than=NUMBER**

print messages with less than this many definitions, defaults to infinite if not set

**->, ---more-than=NUMBER**

print messages with more than this many definitions, defaults to 0 if not set

**-u, ---unique**

shorthand for **---less-than=2**, requests that only unique messages be printed

**Input file syntax:**

**-P, ---properties-input**

input files are in Java .properties syntax

**---stringtable-input**

input files are in NeXTstep/GNUstep .strings syntax

**Output details:**

**-t, ---to-code=NAME**

encoding for output

**---use-first**

use first available translation for each message, don't merge several translations

**---lang=CATALOGNAME**

set 'Language' field in the header entry

**---color**

use colors and other text attributes always

- color=WHEN**  
use colors and other text attributes if WHEN. WHEN may be 'always', 'never', 'auto', or 'html'.
- style=STYLEFILE**  
specify CSS style rule file for **--color**
- e, --no-escape**  
do not use C escapes in output (default)
- E, --escape**  
use C escapes in output, no extended chars
- force-po**  
write PO file even if empty
- i, --indent**  
write the .po file using indented style
- no-location**  
do not write '#: filename:line' lines
- n, --add-location**  
generate '#: filename:line' lines (default)
- strict**  
write out strict Uniform conforming .po file
- p, --properties-output**  
write out a Java .properties file
- stringtable-output**  
write out a NeXTstep/GNUstep .strings file
- w, --width=NUMBER**  
set output page width
- no-wrap**  
do not break long message lines, longer than the output page width, into several lines
- s, --sort-output**  
generate sorted output
- F, --sort-by-file**  
sort output by file location

**Informative output:**

- h, --help**  
display this help and exit
- V, --version**  
output version information and exit

**AUTHOR**

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**REPORTING BUGS**

Report bugs to <bug-gnu-gettext@gnu.org>.

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**SEE ALSO**

The full documentation for **msgcat** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **msgcat** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

**info msgcat**

should give you access to the complete manual.