

**NAME**

**detox** — clean up filenames

**SYNOPSIS**

```
detox [-f configfile] [-n | --dry-run] [-r] [-s sequence] [--special] [-v]
    file ...
detox [-L] [-f configfile] [-v]
detox [-h | --help]
detox [-V]
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **detox** utility renames files to make them easier to work with under Unix and Unix-like operating systems. It replaces characters that make it hard to type out a filename with dashes and underscores. It also provides transliteration-based filters, converting ISO8859-1 or UTF-8 to 7-bit ASCII, in part or in whole. An additional filter unescapes CGI-escaped filenames.

**Sequences**

**detox** is driven by a configurable series of filters, called a sequence. Sequences are covered in more detail in `detoxrc(5)` and are discoverable with the **-L** option. The default sequence will run the **safe** and **wipeup** filters. Other examples of pre-configured sequences are **iso8859\_1** and **utf\_8**, which both provide transliteration to ASCII and then finish with the **safe** and **wipeup** filters.

**Options**

**-f** *configfile*  
Use *configfile* instead of the default configuration files for loading translation sequences. No other config file will be parsed.

**-h, --help**  
Display helpful information.

**-L**  
List the currently available sequences. When paired with **-v** this option shows what filters are used in each sequence and any properties applied to the filters.

**-n, --dry-run**  
Doesn't actually change anything. This implies the **-v** option.

**-r**  
Recurse into subdirectories.

**-s** *sequence*  
Use *sequence* instead of **default**.

**--special**  
Works on special files (including links). Normally **detox** ignores these files.

**-v**  
Be verbose about which files are being renamed.

**-V**  
Show the current version of **detox**.

**FILES**

`/etc/detoxrc`  
The system-wide `detoxrc` file.

`~/.detoxrc`  
A user's personal `detoxrc`. Normally it extends the system-wide `detoxrc`, unless **-f** has been specified, in which case, it is ignored.

`/usr/share/detox/safe.tbl`

The default safe character translation table.

`/usr/share/detox/iso8859_1.tbl`

The default ISO 8859-1 transliteration table.

`/usr/share/detox/unicode.tbl`

The default Unicode transliteration table, used by the UTF-8 filter.

## EXAMPLES

**detox -s** *iso8859\_1 -r -v -n* /tmp/new\_files

Will run the sequence *iso8859\_1* recursively, listing any changes, without changing anything, on the files of /tmp/new\_files.

**detox -f** *my\_detoxrc -L -v*

Will list the sequences within *my\_detoxrc*, showing their filters and options.

## SEE ALSO

`inline-detox(1)`, `detoxrc(5)`, `detox.tbl(5)`.

## HISTORY

**detox** was originally designed to clean up files that I had received from friends which had been created using other operating systems. It's trivial to create a filename with spaces, parenthesis, brackets, and ampersands under some operating systems. These have special meaning within FreeBSD and Linux, and cause problems when you go to access them. I created **detox** to clean up these files.

Version 2.0 stepped back from transliteration out of the box, instead focusing on ease of use. The primary motivations for this were user-provided feedback, and the fact that many modern Unix-like OSs use UTF-8 as their primary character set. Transliterating from UTF-8 to ASCII in this scenario is lossy and pointless.

## AUTHORS

**detox** was written by Doug Harple.

## CAVEATS

If, after the translation of a filename is finished, a file already exists with that same name, **detox** will not rename the file. This could cause a problem with the **max\_length** filter, if it was imperative that the files be cut down to a certain length.