

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 ISO 8859-1 or UTF-8 to 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. **detox** will not recurse into symlinks that point at directories.

-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 lower -r -v -n /tmp/new_files
Will run the sequence *lower* 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\(1\)](#), [detox.tbl\(5\)](#), [detoxrc\(5\)](#), [ascii\(7\)](#), [iso_8859-1\(7\)](#), [unicode\(7\)](#), [utf-8\(7\)](#)

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.