

Imagine

```
Sudo apt-get install boxes
http://boxes.thomasjensen.com

runs:
    > boxes {im_opt} <fname>.boxes

class->cmd
    boxes -> boxes

Metadata options
    imagine.im_out: img,fcb
    imagine.im_log: 4
    imagine.boxes.im_opt: -d peek -p h4v1
    imagine.shebang.im_opt: -d peek -p h4v1
```

Local installation

GNU/Linux

4.15.0-70-generic #79-Ubuntu SMP Tue Nov 12 10:36:11 UTC 2019

Package: boxes Version: 1.2-2 Priority: optional Section: universe/text

Origin: Ubuntu

Maintainer: Ubuntu Developers <ubuntu-devel-discuss@lists.ubuntu.com>

Original-Maintainer: Salvatore Bonaccorso <carnil@debian.org>

Bugs: https://bugs.launchpad.net/ubuntu/+filebug

Installed-Size: 194 kB
Depends: libc6 (>= 2.14)

Homepage: http://boxes.thomasjensen.com/

Download-Size: 66,6 kB APT-Manual-Installed: yes

APT-Sources: http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu bionic/universe amd64 Packages

Description: textmode box- and comment drawing filter

Boxes is extremely configurable filter for adding and removing ASCII art (comments, for example) around chunks of text. Most modern text editors support filtering text through external filters. Boxes is such a filter.

Examples

boxes class

shebang

Another method is to use the shebang class

Wise unicorn

```{.boxes im\_opt="-d unicornsay"}
Never argue with stupid people,
they'll drag you down to their level
and then beat you with experience.
-- Mark Twain

- - -

# **Documentation**

# boxes -h

```
boxes - draws any kind of box around your text (and removes it)
 (c) Thomas Jensen <boxes@thomasjensen.com>
 Web page: http://boxes.thomasjensen.com/
Usage: boxes [options] [infile [outfile]]
 alignment/positioning of text inside box [default: hlvt]
 -a fmt
 -c str
 use single shape box design where str is the W shape
 -d name box design [default: first one in file]
 -f file configuration file
 -h
 print usage information
 -i mode indentation mode [default: box]
 -k bool leading/trailing blank line retention on removal
 list available box designs w/ samples
 mend box, i.e. remove it and redraw it afterwards
 -\mathbf{m}
 -p fmt padding [default: none]
 remove box
 -r
 -s wxh box size (width w and/or height h)
 -t str tab stop distance and expansion [default: 8e]
 -₹
 print version information
```

# boxes -l

```
59 Available Styles in "/etc/boxes/boxes-config":

ada-box
(public domain), coded by Neil Bird <neil.bird@rdel.co.uk>:
ada-cmt
(public domain), coded by Neil Bird <neil.bird@rdel.co.uk>:
 -- regular Ada
 -- comments
boxquote
Christian Molls <CMolls@gmx.net>:
 ,----[mp3-wav]
 | #!/bin/sh
 \mid # konvertiert im aktuellen Verzeichnis .mp3 in .wav
 | for i in *.mp3; do
 | mpg123 -v --stereo --rate 44100 -w "`basename "$i" .mp3`".wav "$i"
 done
 `----
boy
.-"""-.
 / .===. \
 \/ 6 6 \/
 joan stark spunk11110juno.com |
```

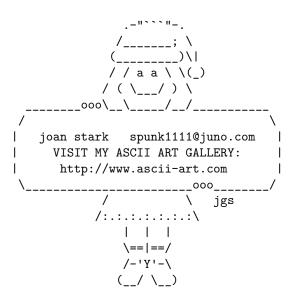
```
VISIT MY ASCII ART GALLERY:
 | http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/7373/ |
 1 1 1
 (public domain), coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
 /**********/
 /*
c-cmt
(public domain), coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
 /*
 */
 regular C language
 /*
 */
 /*
 comments
 */
 /*
c-cmt2
(public domain), coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
 /*
 * regular C language
 * comments
 */
AlpT (@freaknet.org):
 /**
 */
 code(here); a++;
 /**/
```

caml

Michael Tiernan <Michael.Tiernan@gMail.com>:

(\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*)
(\* \*)
(\* \*)
(\* \*)

capgirl



cat

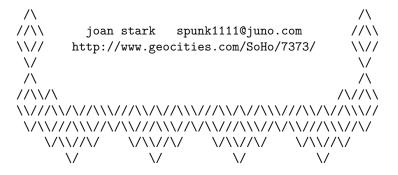
```
joan stark
 < spunk1111@juno.com >
 ASCII ART GALLERY:
) < http://www.geocities.com/SoHo/7373/ > (
(public domain), coded by Bas van Gils

bvg@linuxfan.com>:
ccel
Elmar Loos <elInfo@gmx.net>:
 text //
 //
 here
 columns
unknown artist, coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
 1 / 1
diamonds
Joan G. Stark <spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
 / \setminus
 / \setminus
 /\//\\
 /\//\\/
 /\//\\\
 /\//\\/
 //\\//\\//\\//\\//\\//\\\//\\\//\\\//\\\//\\\//\\\//\\\//\\\//\\\//\\\//\\\//\\\
```

\/\\//

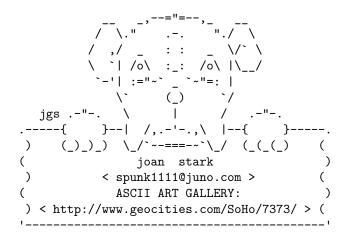
\\//\/

\/



### dog

Joan G. Stark spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/> doxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:



#### face

Dmitry Bolshakov <bdimych@protonmail.com>:



#### girl

Joan G. Stark spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/> dot)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

# headline

Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

/\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*/ /\* \*/ /\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*/

# html

(public domain), coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

# html-cmt

(public domain), coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

```
<!-- --> <!-- regular comments used in HTML files --> <!-- -->
```

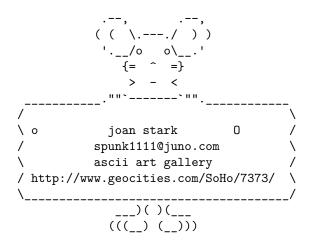
ian\_jones

unknown artist, coded by Karl E. Jorgensen <karl@jorgensen.com>:

```
/ _ _ \
 (|(.)(.)|)
 | Your Text Here Your Text Here Your Text Here Your Tex |
| Your Text Here Your Text Here Your Text Here Your Tex |
| Your Text Here Your Text Here Your Text Here Your Tex |
| Your Text Here Your Text Here Your Text Here Your Tex |
'-----'
 () Dooo.
 \ (()
 _))/
java-cmt
(public domain), coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
 // regular Java
 // comments
 //
javadoc
(public domain), coded by Ted Berg <tedberg@spiritone.com>:
 Javadoc Comments
lisp-cmt
(public domain), coded by Vijay Lakshminarayanan <liyer.vijay@gmail.com>:
 ;; regular comments used in Lisp
 ;;
```

mouse

Joan G. Stark <spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/>
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Joan G. Stark <spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/>
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Joan G. Stark <spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/>
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Joan G. Stark <spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/>
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Joan G. Stark <spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/>
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Joan G. Stark <br/>
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Joan G. Stark <br/>
<br/>
Joan

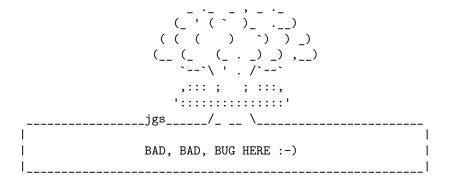


netdata

Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

nuke

Joan G. Stark <spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:



parchment

unknown artist, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/>boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:



#### peek

unknown artist, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/>boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

# pound-cmt

(public domain), coded by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/>boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

#
 regular comments used in Perl, Shell scripts, etc.

# retest

```
regular expression test use "foo", "bar", and "--" repeatedly in input \,
```

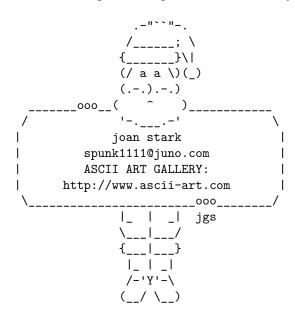
# right

Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

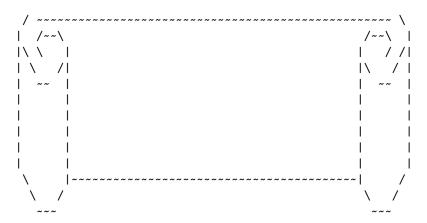
This can be used for marking code changes with your initials (I don't like it, but some people work this way):

#### santa

Joan G. Stark <spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:



scroll
unknown artist, coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:



scroll-akn
akn, coded by Tristano Ajmone <tajmone@gmail.com>:

### shell

(public domain), coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

############

#

# #

############

## simple

(public domain), coded by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/> doxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

## spring

Joan G. Stark spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/> thomasjensen(dot)com>:



\_\_\_\_\_\_

#### stark1

Joan G. Stark <spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

| =- |                                         | -= |
|----|-----------------------------------------|----|
| ^  | -, ,                                    | ^  |
| ^  | , , ; `-,  - , ;   '                    | ^  |
| ^  | ,       ,-      , ;   ,-      `.        | ^  |
| ^  | `_1 `_1 `_^ 1 ^                         | ^  |
| ^  | Spunk1111@juno.com                      | ^  |
| ^  | ,                                       | ^  |
| ^  | `-, ; ;   '                             | ^  |
| ^  | , ;                                     | ^  |
| ^  | `_'  _' `_^ ' ^ ` ` ` ` ` ` ` `         | ^  |
| ^  | •                                       | ^  |
| =- | .=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=- | -= |

#### stark2

Joan G. Stark spunk11110juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/> thomasjensen(dot)com>:

#### stone

Fredrik Steen <fsteen@stone.nu>:

```
+----+
| stone |
+----+
```

```
sunset
```

Joan G. Stark spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/>
<br/>
thomasjensen(dot)com>:

```
♦......♦
 <>: ., .., joan stark :<>
 <>: :, :.' : : :`.: :.' `: `: `: `: spunk1111
 <>: ,.; : `.' : `: : : : @juno.com :<>
 ♦:....::♦
 ~you can't hurt your eyesight by looking on the bright side~
 ~but you can hurt them by looking at bad ascii art!~
test1
test1
test2
Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
test2
test3
Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
test3
test4
Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
test4
test5
Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
 test5
```

```
test6
Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
test6
tex-box
(public domain), coded by Nic H <not@applicable.com>:
 %=======%
 % TeX is love %
 % Tex is life %
 %=======%
tex-cmt
(public domain), coded by Nic H <not@applicable.com>:
 % regular TeX/LaTeX
 % comments
 %
tjc
Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:
 static char *foo (const int a, const int b)
 * Do the foo on the bar and around again.
 number of doodlefrobs
 a
 barfoo mode (0 == off)
 Memory will be allocated for the result.
 RETURNS: Success: Pointer to result line
 (e.g. out of memory)
 {
 static char temp
 int ii;

```

twisted
Michael Naylor, coded by Tristano Ajmone <tajmone@gmail.com>:

| _ _ _                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                 |
|                                                                 |
| !!     * * * * * * * * * * * TWISTED * * * * * * * * * *     !  |
| ·                                                               |
|                                                                 |
| Just another cool ascii frame, brought to you by:               |
|                                                                 |
| { Tristano Ajmone }                                             |
| !_!           ! !_!                                             |
| !!     Derived from an ascii frame originally created by:     ! |
| ·                                                               |
| -~{ Michael Naylor }~                                           |
|                                                                 |
| !                                                               |
| · _                                                             |
|                                                                 |
|                                                                 |
| !!!!!!!!!                                                       |
| ·· ·· ·· ·· ·                                                   |

underline
Elmar Loos <elInfo@gmx.net>:

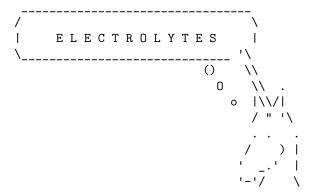
unicornsay

unknown artist, coded by Mike Meyer <boxes@meyer.fm>:



unicornthink

unknown artist, coded by Mike Meyer <boxes@meyer.fm>:



vim-cmt

Bram Moolenaar, coded by Thomas Jensen <boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

" comments used in the vim editor's config file (.vimrc)

whirly

unknown artist, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/>boxes(at)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

xes

Joan G. Stark spunk1111@juno.com>, coded by Thomas Jensen <br/>
<br/>
dot)thomasjensen(dot)com>:

# man page

boxes(1) General Commands Manual boxes(1)

NAME

boxes - text mode box and comment drawing filter

# SYNOPSIS

boxes [-hlmrv] [-a format] [-d design] [-f file] [-i indent] [-k bool] [-p pad] [-s size] [-t tabopts] [infile [outfile]]

#### DESCRIPTION

Boxes is a text filter which can draw any kind of box around its input text. Box design choices range from simple boxes to complex ASCII art. A box can also be removed and repaired, even if it has been badly damaged by editing of the text inside. Since boxes may be open on any side, boxes can also be used to create regional comments in any programming language. New box designs of all sorts can easily be added and shared by appending to a free format configuration file.

boxes was originally intended to be used with the vim(1) text editor, but it can be tied to any text editor which supports filters, as well as called from the command line as a standalone tool.

#### OPTIONS

Options offered by boxes are the following:

#### -a string

Alignment/positioning of text inside box. This option takes a format string argument which is read from left to right. The format string may not contain whitespace and must consist of one or more of the following components:

hx - horizontal alignment of the input text block inside a potentially larger box. Possible values for x are 1 (ell, for left alignment), c (center), or r (right). This does not affect the justification of text lines within the input text block (use the j argument instead).

vx - vertical alignment of the input text block inside a potentially larger box. Possible values for x are t (for top alignment), c (center), or b (bottom).

jx - justification of lines within the input text block. Possible values for x are 1 (ell, for left justification), c (center), or r (right). This does not affect the alignment of the input text block itself within the box. Use the h and

v arguments for input text block positioning.

Short hand notations (can be combined with the above arguments):

- 1 (ell) short for hlvcjl
- c short for hcvcjc
- r short for hrvcjr

The factory default setting for -a is hlvt.

#### -c string

Command line design definition for simple cases. The argument of this option is the definition for the "west" (W) shape. The defined shape must consist of exactly one line, i.e. no multi-line shapes are allowed. The -c option is intended as a shortcut for those cases where simple regional comments are to be created, which only need a certain character or sequence of characters to be placed in front of every line. In such cases, it is much more convenient to simply specify -c than to do a complete design definition in one's config file, where the only shape defined is the west shape.

This option implies a -d and does not access the config file. -c may of course be used in conjunction with any of the other options. By default, -c is not specified.

#### -d string

Design selection. The one argument of this option is the name of the design to use.

# -f string

Use alternate config file. The one argument of this option is the name of a valid boxes config file, containing new and exciting designs!

-h Print usage information.

# -i string

Indentation mode. Possible arguments are "text" (indent text inside of box), "box" (indent box, not text inside of box), or "none" (throw away indentation). Arguments may be abbreviated. The default is to indent the box, but not the text.

### -k bool

Kill leading/trailing blank lines on removal. The value of bool can be specified as on, yes, true, 1, or t, all meaning

yes, or off, no, false, 0, or f, which mean no. This is case-insensitive. This option only takes effect in connection with -r. If set to yes, leading and trailing blank lines will be removed from the output. If set to no, the entire content of the former box is returned. The default is no, if both the top and the bottom part of the box are open, as is the case with most regional comments. If the box's design defines a top part or a bottom part, the default is yes.

- -1 (ell) List designs. Produces a listing of all available box designs in the config file, along with a sample box and information about it's creator. Also checks syntax of the entire config file. If used in connection with -d, displays detailed information about the specified design.
- -m Mend box. This removes a (potentially broken) box as with -r, and redraws it afterwards. The mended box is drawn according to the options given. This may be important to know when it comes to restoring padding, identation, etc. for the mended box. Implies -k false.

# -p string

Padding. Specify padding in spaces around the input text block for all sides of the box. The argument string may not contain whitespace and must consist of a combination of the following characters, each followed by a number indicating the padding in spaces:

- a (all) give padding for all sides at once
- h (horiz) give padding for both horizontal sides
- v (vertical) give padding for both vertical sides
- $\ensuremath{\text{b}}$  (bottom) give padding for bottom (south) side
- 1 (left) give padding for left (west) side
- t (top) give padding for top (north) side
- r (right) give padding for right (east) side

Example: -p a4t2 would define the padding to be 4 characters on all sides, except for the top of the box, where the input text block will be only 2 lines away from the box.

By default, unless specified otherwise in the config file, no padding is used.

-r Remove box. Removes an existing box instead of drawing it. Which design to use is detected automatically. In order to save time or in case the detection does not decide correctly, combine with -d to specify the design. The default is to draw a new box.

#### -s widthxheight

Box size. This option specifies the desired box size in units of columns (for width) and lines (for height). If only a single number is given as argument, this number specifies the desired box width. A single number prefixed by 'x' specifies only the box height. The actual resulting box size may vary depending on the individual shape sizes of the chosen design. Also, other command line options may influence the box size (such as -p).

By  $\mbox{ default, the smallest possible box is created around the text.}$ 

#### -t string

Tab handling. This option controls how tab characters in the input text are handled. The option string must always begin with a uint number indicating the distance between tab stops. It is important that this value be set correctly, or tabulator characters will upset your input text. The correct tab distance value depends on the settings used for the text you are processing. A common value is 8.

Immediately following the tab distance, an optional character can be appended, telling boxes how to treat the leading tabs. The following options are available:

- e expand tabs into spaces
- k keep tabs as close to what they were as possible
- $\ensuremath{\mathbf{u}}$  unexpand tabs. This makes boxes turn as many  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{spaces}}$  as possible into tabs.

In order to maintain backwards compatibility, the -t string can be just a number. In that case, e is assumed for tab handling, which removes all tabs and replaces them with spaces. The factory default for the -t option is simply 8, which is just such a case.

For example, you could specify -t 4u in order to have your leading tabs unexpanded. In the box content, tabs are always converted into spaces. The tab distance in this example is 4.

-v Print out current version number.

# CONFIGURATION FILES

Boxes will use the configuration file specified on the command line (using -f). If no config file is specified on the command line, boxes will check for the BOXES environment variable, which may contain a filename to use. If BOXES is not set, boxes will try

to read \$HOME/.boxes and use it as a config file. Failing that, boxes will try to read the system-wide config file (see FILES).

The syntax of boxes config files is described on the website (see below). They are quite self-explanatory, though.

#### AVAILABILITY

Boxes is available from its website at <URL:http://boxes.thomas-jensen.com/>. The website also features a number of examples illustrating this manual page as well as more in-depth documentation.

Check out vim(1) at <URL:http://www.vim.org/>!

#### AUTHOR

Boxes was made by Thomas Jensen <br/> <br/> toxes@thomasjensen.com>.<br/> Please see the boxes website for a current email address.

#### VERSION

This is boxes version 1.2.

#### BUGS

Although it is doing fine in most cases, imho the design autodetector needs some more work.

Should you notice any other unspecified behavior, please tell the author!

# ENVIRONMENT

Boxes recognizes the following environment variables:

HOME The user's home directory.

BOXES Name of boxes configuration file, if different from ~/.boxes.

### FILES

\$HOME/.boxes

boxes configuration file

# SEE ALSO

tal(1) , vim(1)

4th Berkeley Distribution March 16 2017

boxes(1)