

NANO

NAME

nano – Nano's ANOther editor, an enhanced free Pico clone

SYNOPSIS

nano [*OPTIONS*] [[*+LINE,COLUMN*] *FILE*]...

DESCRIPTION

This manual page briefly documents the **nano** command.

nano is a small, free and friendly editor which aims to replace Pico, the default editor included in the non-free Pine package. Rather than just copying Pico's look and feel, **nano** also implements some missing (or disabled by default) features in Pico, such as "search and replace" and "go to line and column number".

OPTIONS

+LINE,COLUMN

Places cursor at line number *LINE* and column number *COLUMN* (at least one of which must be specified) on startup, instead of the default of line 1, column 1.

-? Same as **-h** (**--help**).

-A (**--smarthome**)

Make the Home key smarter. When Home is pressed anywhere but at the very beginning of non-whitespace characters on a line, the cursor will jump to that beginning (either forwards or backwards). If the cursor

is already at that position, it will jump to the true beginning of the line.

-B (--backup)

When saving a file, back up the previous version of it to the current filename suffixed with a ~.

-C dir (--backupdir=dir)

Set the directory where **nano** puts unique backup files if file backups are enabled.

-D (--boldtext)

Use bold text instead of reverse video text.

-E (--tabstospaces)

Convert typed tabs to spaces.

-F (--multibuffer)

Enable multiple file buffers, if available.

-H (--historylog)

Log search and replace strings to `~/.nano_history`, so they can be retrieved in later sessions, if nanorc support is available.

-I (--ignorercfiles)

Don't look at `SYSCONFDIR/nanorc` or `~/.nanorc`, if nanorc support is available.

-K (--rebindkeypad)

Interpret the numeric keypad keys so that they all work properly. You should only need to use this option if they don't, as mouse support won't work properly with this option enabled.

-L (--nonewlines)

Don't add newlines to the ends of files.

-N (--noconvert)

Disable automatic conversion of files from DOS/Mac format.

-O (--morespace)

Use the blank line below the titlebar as extra editing space.

-Q str (--quotestr=str)

Set the quoting string for justifying. The default is `"^[t]*[#:>|}]"+` if extended regular expression support is available, or `"> "` otherwise. Note that *t* stands for a Tab.

-R (---restricted)

Restricted mode: don't read or write to any file not specified on the command line; read any `nanorc` files; allow suspending; allow a file to be appended to, prepended to, or saved under a different name if it already has one; or use backup files or spell checking. Also accessible by invoking **nano** with any name beginning with 'r' (e.g. "rnano").

-S (---smooth)

Enable smooth scrolling. Text will scroll line-by-line, instead of the usual chunk-by-chunk behavior.

-T cols (---tabsize=cols)

Set the size (width) of a tab to *cols* columns. The value of *cols* must be greater than 0. The default value is 8.

-U (---quickblank)

Do quick statusbar blanking. Statusbar messages will disappear after 1 keystroke instead of 25. Note that `-coverrides` this.

-V (---version)

Show the current version number and exit.

-W (---wordbounds)

Detect word boundaries more accurately by treating punctuation characters as part of a word.

-Y str (---syntax=str)

Specify a specific syntax highlighting from the *nanorc* to use, if available.

-c (---const)

Constantly show the cursor position. Note that this overrides `-U`.

-d (---rebinddelete)

Interpret the Delete key differently so that both Backspace and Delete work properly. You should only need to use this option if Backspace acts like Delete on your system.

-h (---help)

Show a summary of command line options and exit.

-i (---autoindent)

Indent new lines to the previous line's indentation. Useful when editing source code.

- k (--cut)**
Enable cut from cursor to end of line.
- l (--nofollow)**
If the file being edited is a symbolic link, replace the link with a new file instead of following it. Good for editing files in */tmp*, perhaps?
- m (--mouse)**
Enable mouse support, if available for your system. When enabled, mouse clicks can be used to place the cursor, set the mark (with a double click), and execute shortcuts. The mouse will work in the X Window System, and on the console when *gpm* is running.
- o dir (--operatingdir=dir)**
Set operating directory. Makes **nano** set up something similar to a chroot.
- p (--preserve)**
Preserve the XON and XOFF sequences (^Q and ^S) so they will be caught by the terminal.
- r cols (--fill=cols)**
Wrap lines at column *cols*. If this value is 0 or less, wrapping will occur at the width of the screen less *cols* columns, allowing the wrap point to vary along with the width of the screen if the screen is resized. The default value is -8.
- s prog (--speller=prog)**
Enable alternative spell checker command.
- t (--tempfile)**
Always save changed buffer without prompting. Same as Pico's **-t** option.
- v (--view)**
View file (read only) mode.
- w (--nowrap)**
Disable wrapping of long lines.
- x (--nohelp)**
Disable help screen at bottom of editor.
- z (--suspend)**
Enable suspend ability.
- a, -b, -e, -f, -g, -j**
Ignored, for compatibility with Pico.

INITIALIZATION FILE

nano will read initialization files in the following order: *SYSCONFDIR/nanorc*, then *~/.nanorc*. Please see **nanorc(5)** and the example file **nanorc.sample**, both of which should be provided with **nano**.

NOTES

If no alternative spell checker command is specified on the command line or in one of the *nanorc* files, **nano** will check the **SPELL** environment variable for one.

In some cases **nano** will try to dump the buffer into an emergency file. This will happen mainly if **nano** receives a **SIGHUP** or **SIGTERM** or runs out of memory. It will write the buffer into a file named *nano.save* if the buffer didn't have a name already, or will add a ".save" suffix to the current filename. If an emergency file with that name already exists in the current directory, it will add ".save" plus a number (e.g. ".save.1") to the current filename in order to make it unique. In multibuffer mode, **nano** will write all the open buffers to their respective emergency files.