

**NAME**

trofform – activates a chosen TROFF document format and deactivates any alternate document formats.

**SYNOPSIS**

trofform [*options*] [*input-file*]

**DESCRIPTION**

trofform is a bash script that activates a chosen document format (including ancient AT&T variants) within a TROFF text and deactivates any alternate document formats. It does so by reducing the number of dots prefixed to the ms macro belonging to the chosen format to one (1), and by prefixing two (2) dots to all other document formats ms macros. Unaffected text lines are passed on unchanged, and the result is sent to standard output.

The output can be processed further with available ‘troff’ tools with ‘ms’ macro package, preferably GNU groff<sub>ms</sub>(7), to produce typeset PostScript-, PDF-, HTML- or terminal (‘nroff’) output. As an alternate to processing a text-file, trofform can also read (text) input from a pipe.

Prerequisite for evoking any of the ancient/authentic AT&T document formats is the presence on the system of the original AT&T ‘tmac.s’ file with special macros. This special ‘tmac.s’ macro-file is in the public domain, can be found on the web, and should preferably be renamed differently as to avoid collisions with the natively installed ms-macro files. In order to process the output correctly, groff must be given option **-M** with the path to the directory where the AT&T macro-file resides.

trofform can be called both interactively (by options **-I** and **-h**) and non-interactively (by specifying no or any of the other options).

**OPTIONS**

trofform takes the following options:

- h** Print ‘usage’ text for help.
- R** Activate **.RP** macro for *Released Paper*, and deactivate any alternate document representation macros.
- T** Activate **.TR** macro for *Computing Science Technical Report* (AT&T), and deactivate any alternate document representation macros.
- i** Activate **.IM** macro for *Internal Memorandum* (AT&T), and deactivate any alternate document representation macros.
- t** Activate **.TM** and **.CS** macros for *Technical Memorandum* (AT&T) and related cover sheet, and deactivate any alternate document representation macros.
- f** Activate **.MF** macro for *Memorandum for File* (AT&T), and deactivate any alternate document representation macros.
- r** Activate **.MR** macro for *Memorandum for Record* (AT&T), and deactivate any alternate document representation macros.
- e** Activate **.EG** macro for *Engineer’s Notes* (AT&T), and deactivate any alternate document representation macros.
- I** Interactive mode. User is presented with following menu for choosing the preferred document format:

Please choose document format in which to present the output:

1. Non Released Paper (without cover sheet)
2. RP - Released Paper (with cover sheet)
3. TR - Computing Science Technical Report (AT&T)
4. IM - Internal Memorandum (AT&T)
5. TM - Technical Memorandum (AT&T)
6. MF - Memorandum for File (AT&T)
7. MR - Memorandum for Record (AT&T)

8. EG - Engineer's Notes (AT&T)
9. Close trofform

trofform subsequently prompts for any further command(s) to process the output by, unless 9. has been chosen to close the program. Pipe constructs are allowed without argument.

If no option is given, all document format ms macros are deactivated. This results in the document being formatted as a 'Non Released Paper' without cover sheet.

## COMPATIBILITY

This program has been tested to run on both GNU/Linux (Ubuntu 22.04, Tiny Core Linux 10, Alpine Linux 3.12 within iSH app on iOS smartphone), as well as on MacOS X. In order to be able to evoke the authentic AT&T documents while processing the TROFF output with groff\_ms, the original AT&T 'tmac.s' macro-file needs to be installed and be referred to.

## BUGS

No known bugs.

## AUTHOR

Written by Rob Toscani (rob\_toscani@yahoo.com)

## REPORTING BUGS

Please report any bugs to the author by e-mail or via <https://github.com/jazzfan2/text2troff/issues>