

NAME

diff3 – 3-way differential file comparison

SYNOPSIS

diff3 [**-ex3**] file1 file2 file3

DESCRIPTION

Diff3 compares three versions of a file, and publishes disagreeing ranges of text flagged with these codes:

```
====      all three files differ
====1     file1 is different
====2     file2 is different
====3     file3 is different
```

The type of change suffered in converting a given range of a given file to some other is indicated in one of these ways:

```
f: n1 a      Text is to be appended after line number n1 in file f, where f = 1, 2, or 3.
f: n1,n2 c    Text is to be changed in the range line n1 to line n2. If n1 = n2, the range may be
               abbreviated to n1.
```

The original contents of the range follows immediately after a **c** indication. When the contents of two files are identical, the contents of the lower-numbered file is suppressed.

Under the **-e** option, *diff3* publishes a script for the editor *ed* that will incorporate into *file1* all changes between *file2* and *file3*, *i.e.* the changes that normally would be flagged **====** and **====3**. Option **-x** (**-3**) produces a script to incorporate only changes flagged **====** (**====3**). The following command will apply the resulting script to 'file1'.

```
(cat script; echo '1,$p') | ed - file1
```

SEE ALSO

diff(1)

BUGS

Text lines that consist of a single '.' will defeat **-e**.

FILES

```
/tmp/d3a????
/tmp/d3b????
```