NAME

groff_filenames – filename extensions for RUNOFF, roff and groff

DESCRIPTION

Since the evolution of *RUNOFF* in the 1960s and `roff` in the 1970s, a whole bunch of filename extensions for *RUNOFF* and `roff` files were used.

The `roff` extensions refer to preprocessors or macro packages. These extensions are fixed in all `Unix`–like operating systems.

Later on, `groff` added some more extensions. We will now write a *man−page about these filename extensions.*

HISTORICAL RUNOFF LANGUAGE

The first text language that used the **.COMMAND** structure for defining commands is said to be the *MEMO* language with programs **MODIFY** and **DITTO**. It was used at `MIT` under the operating system `CTSS` in the years 1960−63. But there is no open documentation for this old text system, but it seems that there is 1 book about it in the non-public library at **MIT**.

The letter **m** taken from *MEMO*/ is still active as the option **−m** for declaring a macro package in **troff**/**nroff**.

The first documented **.COMMAND** text language was *RUNOFF*, see **runoff**(7).

RUNOFF Files

All available *RUNOFF* files are now kept in the internet at an archive on `github`. Use the command-line call

        $ **git clone git@github.com:RUNOFF/RUNOFF.git**

for getting this archive (without the leading dollar).

<name>.**RUNOFF**
<name>.**runoff**

> were the oldest naming for files in the original *RUNOFF* format of the 1960s at `IBM 7090` and `7094` with the operating system `CTSS`.

<name>.**RUN**
<name>.**run**

> This abbreviation was used for *RUNOFF* files on the `CTSS` and `Multics` operating system in the 1960s and later on.

<name>.**RNO**
<name>.**rno**

> was used for normal *RUNOFF* text files, mostly on the `PDP10−10 archive`.

<name>.**RNH**
<name>.**rnh**

> was used for help files written in the *RUNOFF* language on the `PDP10−10 archive`.

RUNOFF files with the extensions **.rnh**, **.rno**, and **.run** are still available in the internet at several sites, mostly at the `DEC PDP−10 archive`. See RNH ⟨http://pdp−10.trailing−edge.com/cgi-bin/searchbyname?name=*.rnh⟩, RNO ⟨http://pdp−10.trailing−edge.com/cgi-bin/searchbyname?name=*.rno⟩, and RUN ⟨http://pdp−10.trailing−edge.com/cgi-bin/searchbyname?name=*.run⟩.

Processed RUNOFF Text Files

Files written in the *RUNOFF* language were processed by the program **RUNOFF**. Only text files were produced by this step, because graphics was not available in the 1960s. Today we would use the file name extension ***.txt**. That was not done in these early times. Instead the following extensions were taken:

<name>.**DOC**
<name>.**doc**

> Very often this naming was used for the output of the **RUNOFF** program. It contained *filled* and *hyphenated* text, suitable for tty mode. The extension **.doc** was later on taken by `Microsoft` for their *office files*.

<name>.**MEM**

<name>.**mem**
> This often used extension was taken for *RUNOFF* files to refer to the ancient *MEMO* language.

<name>.**HLP**
<name>.**hlp**
> The formatting of `*.rnh` files (help files) was stored under this extension.

This ends the description of *RUNOFF*. All following parts of this document refer to the `roff` language and the used file name extensions thereof.

COMPRESSION OF ROFF FILES

Each `roff` file can be optionally *compressed*. That means that the *total filename* ends with a *compressor name*. So the whole filename has the structure *<name>*.*<extension>[*.*<compression>]*.

Mostly known are the *compressor extensions* **.Z**, **.gz**, and **.bzip2**. Relatively new is **.xz**.

From now on, we will ignore the *compressions* and only comment the structure *<name>*.*<extension>*.

MAN−PAGES

The `Unix` `manual pages` are shortly named `man-pages`. The `man-page` style is the best known part of the `roff` language.

The extensions for `man` should be better documented. So this is documented here.

Files written in the `man` language use the following extension: *.*<section>[<group>]*.

Man-page Sections

The traditional *man−page* `<section>` is a digit from **1** to **8**.

<name>.**1**
<name>.**2**
<name>.**3**
<name>.**4**
<name>.**5**
<name>.**6**
<name>.**7**
<name>.**8**
> Classic man−page *sections*.

Linux added the section number **9** for kernel man−pages.

<name>.**9**
> *Linux* kernel man-pages

In older commercial `Unix` systems, the 3 characters **l**, **n**, and **o** were also used as *section* names. This is today *deprecated*, but there are still documents in this format.

<name>.**l**
<name>.**n**
<name>.**o**
> *Deprecated* old *man−page sections*.

Man−page Group Extensions

The *<group>* extension in .*<section>[<group>]* is optional, but it can be any string of word characters. Usually programmers use a group name that is already used, e.g. **x** for `X Window System` documents or **tk** to refer to the `tk` programming language.

Examples:

groff.1
> is the man-page for **groff** in *section* **1** without a *group*

xargs.1posix.gz
>   is the man–page for the program **xargs** in *section* **1** and *group* **posix**; moreover it is *compressed* with **gz** (**gzip**).

config.5ssl
>   *OpenSSL CONF* library configuration files from *section* **5** with *group* **ssl**.

dpkg-reconfigure.8cdebconf
>   man–page for the program **dpkg-reconfigure** in *section* **8** and *group* **cdebconf**.

Source of Man–pages

There are 2 *roff* languages for writing man–pages: **man** and **mdoc**.

The names of these 2 styles are taken as *extensions* for the source code files of man–pages in the *groff* package.

<name>.**man**
>   *traditional* Unix–like man–page format.

<name>.**mdoc**
>   additional BSD man-page format.

<name>.**mandoc**
>   Files using this extension recognize both man–page formats in **groff** and other processors.

FONT I <name> CB .n
>   A temporary man-page file produced by a run of **make** in the source package.

TRADITIONAL TROFF EXTENSIONS

Files Using Macro Packages

The *classical roff* languages were interpreted by the **traditional troff** and **nroff** programs.

There were several *roff* languages, each represented by a *macro-package*. Each of these provided a suitable file name *extension*:

<name>.**me**
>   *roff* file using the **me** *macro package*.

<name>.**mm**
>   *roff* file using the **mm** *macro package*

<name>.**ms**
>   *roff* file using the **ms** *macro package*

All of these classical *roff* languages and their extensions are still very active in **groff**.

Source Code for Macro Packages (TMAC Files)

In traditional *roff* the source code for the macro packages was stored in *TMAC* files. Their file names have the form:

tmac.*<package>*,
>   *<package>* is the name of the macro package without the leading **m** character, wich is reintegrated by the option **−m**.

For example, **tmac.an** is the source for the **man** macro package.

In the **groff** source, more suitable file names were integrated, see later on.

Preprocessors

Moreover, the following *preprocessors* were used as filename extension:

<name>.**chem**
>   for the integration of chemical formulas

<name>.**eqn**
    for the mathematical use of equations

<name>.**pic**
    graphical tool

<name>.**tbl**
    for tables with *tbl*

<name>.**ref**
    for files using the **prefer** *preprocesor*

Classical Roff Files

<name>.**t**
<name>.**tr**
    for files using the *roff* language of any kind

NEW GROFF EXTENSIONS

GNU roff **groff** is the actual *roff* standard, both for classical *roff* and new extensions.. So even the used new extensions in the source code should be regarded as actual standard. The following extensions are used instead of classical **.t** or **.tr**:

<name>.**groff**
<name>.**roff**
    general ending for files using the *groff language*

Source Code for Macro Packages (TMAC Files)

As the classical form **tmac.***<package_without_m>*, of the *TMAC* file names is quite strange, CI groff added the following structures:

<package_without_m>.**tmac**
m*<package>*.**tmac**
groff_m*<package>*.**tmac**

Files Using new Macro Packages

Groff uses the following new macro packages:

<name>.**mmse**
    file with swedish **mm** *makros* for **groff**

<name>.**mom**
    files written in the *groff macro package* **mom**

<name>.**www**
    files written in **HTML**–like *groff macros*.

Preprocessors and Postprocessors

<name>.**hbtbl**
    a new *tbl* format. See **groff_hdtbl**(7).

<name>.**grap**
    files written for the graphical **grap** processor.

<name>.**grn**
    for including **gremlin**(1), pictures, see **grn**(1).

<name>.**pdfroff**
    transform this file with **pdfroff** of the *groff* system

SEE ALSO

History and future
        runoff(7), **roff**(7), **man–pages**(7), **groff_diff**(7), **groff**(7)

Compression
     uncompress(1posix), **gzip2**(1), **bzip2**(1), **xz**(1)

AUTHORS

   This file was written by Bernd Warken ⟨groff-bernd.warken-72@web.de⟩.

COPYING

   Copyright © 2013
     `Free Software Foundation, Inc.`

   Last update: 5 May 2013

   This file is part of `groff`, a free software project.

   You can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the `GNU General Public License` as published by the `Free Software Foundation (FSF)`, either version 3 of the License, or (at your option) any later version.

   You should have received a copy of the `GNU General Public License` along with `groff`, see the files **COPYING** and **LICENSE** in the top directory of the `groff` source package.

   You can also visit ⟨http://www.gnu.org/licenses⟩.