

CONTENTS

NAME	1
SYNOPSIS	1
DESCRIPTION	1
OPTIONS	1
INTERACTIVE COMMANDS	2
CONFIGURATION FILE ~/.vddiffrc	6
FILES	8

NAME

vddiff — text terminal directory diff tool

SYNOPSIS

vddiff [**-u**] [**-bcdfgklmnorV**] [**-t** *diff_tool*] *directory_1* *directory_2*

DESCRIPTION

vddiff stands for “Vim Directory DIFF”. It is a simple text terminal directory diff tool using `vim(1)` for the actual diff operation. (If `vim` is not installed, “`diff file_1 file_2 | less`” is used instead. Other diff tools can be configured as well.) A file browser displays the names found in the directories given on the command line. Only plain files and symbolic links are compared. Unless option **-r** is used, directories are not compared before they are entered.

Compressed files are automatically decompressed into a temporary directory before the diff tool is started. These files are detected by their file name extension, the file contents are not checked. Currently the following file name extensions are supported: `bz2`, `gz`, `tar`, `tbz`, `tgz`, and `zip`.

Symbols are printed in two columns before the names which have the following meaning:

First column: Difference type

- ‘ ’ Directory, equal files or different file types
- ‘!’ Different files or links (or directories with option **-r**)
- ‘<’ Files found in first directory only
- ‘>’ Files found in second directory only
- ‘=’ Files have same i-node

Second column: File type

- ‘/’ Directory
- ‘ ’ Plain file
- ‘@’ Symbolic link
- ‘?’ Any other file type
- ‘!’ Different file type

OPTIONS

- B** If **vddiff** is started with only one or no argument it behaves like a simple single directory view file browser (a mode called **bmode** whereas the normal mode is called **diff mode**). By use of marks files can be compared in **bmode**, but comparing directories is not possible.
- b** Disable color.

- c** Show only directories which exist in both trees and really different files.
- d** Use “diff \$1 \$2 | less” as diff tool.
- f** Normally directories are displayed on top. With this option files are displayed first.
- g** Use **gvim** as diff and view tool.
- k** Use **tkdiff** as diff tool.
- l** Follow symbolic links. (Note that the integrated file copy, rename, and delete operations never follow symbolic links.)
- m** Normally directories are displayed on top. This is disabled with this option.
- n** This option suppresses the display of equal files.
- o** Hide files which are on one side only.
- r** Recursively scan directories to detect differences in subdirectories. This allows to mark directories which contain differences. It increases the start time (due to disk I/O) since the full file tree is compared at begin. To only show different directories this option needs to be combined with **-c**. Pressing key ‘c’ enables to view all files in this mode.
- t *diff_tool***
Specify diff tool on the command line. The filenames to compare are appended to the given string. To include them into the string the symbolic names “\$1” and “\$2” can be used (in any order), where “\$1” refers to the first and “\$2” to the second file. Note that the shell may require quoting as in

```
-t "diff \$1 \$2 | vim -R -"
```
- u [*filename*]**
Skip reading the initialization file at start-up. If **-u** is used, it must be the very first option. Other used options need to begin with ‘-’ again. If an optional *filename* is supplied, this file is read instead of the default initialization file `~/.vddiffrc`. *filename* needs to be separated with white space from **-u**.
- V** Print version and exit.
- v *view_tool***
Specify view tool on the command line. The filenames is appended to the given string. To include it into the string the symbolic name “\$1” can be embedded which is expanded to the filename.

INTERACTIVE COMMANDS

- ‘Q’** Quit **vddiff**.
- ‘h’ or ‘?’** Display help. Help mode is left with ‘q’. Keys **⟨DOWN⟩**, **⟨UP⟩**, **⟨PAGE-DOWN⟩**, and **⟨PAGE-UP⟩** are used for scrolling in help mode.
- ⟨CTRL-L⟩** Refresh display. This may be necessary after another application had output text into the curses controlled display.
- ⟨UP⟩, ‘k’ or ‘-’**
Move cursor line up.
- ⟨DOWN⟩, ‘j’ or ‘+’**

- Move cursor line down.
- <LEFT>** Leave directory (one directory up).
- <RIGHT>**, **<ENTER>**, or double click
View file, enter directory or start diff tool. Compressed files and directories are unpacked before the view or diff tool is started.
- If a file is marked (with 'm'), only **<RIGHT>** and double click can be used to normally view files or enter directories. **<ENTER>** starts a diff between the marked file and the selected file or directory.
- <PAGE-UP>** or **<BACKSPACE>**
Scroll one screen up.
- <PAGE-DOWN>** or **<SPACE>**
Scroll one screen down.
- <HOME>** or '1G'
Go to first file.
- <END>** or 'G'
Go to last file.
- '/'
Search file in list by typing the begin of the filename. Searching is normally done case-insensitive. Set option **noic** to change this. Search mode is left when a file is selected (with **<RIGHT>** or **<ENTER>**).
- "/"
Search with a basic regular expression for a filename. This can be configured with options **noic** (don't ignore case), **magic** (use extended regular expressions), and **nows** (don't wrap around when search hits top or bottom of the file list). Regex search mode is not left until 'r' is pressed.
- Previously entered search patterns are saved in a history, which can be accessed with the **<UP>** and **<DOWN>** keys.
- 'S'
Sort files by name only (ignoring file type).
- 'D'
Sort files with directories on top.
- 'H'
Put cursor to top line.
- 'M'
Put cursor on middle line.
- 'L'
Put cursor on bottom line.
- "z<ENTER>"
Put selected file to top.
- "z."
Center selected file.
- "z-"
Put selected file to bottom.
- '!' or 'n'
Toggle display of equal files.
- 'c'
Toggle display of all files or only directories which exist in both trees and really different files.
- '&'
Toggle display of files which are on one side only.
- 'F'
Toggle following symbolic links.
- 'p'
Show current relative work directory.

'a'	Show command line directory arguments.
'f'	Show full path.
[n]"<<"	Copy from second to first tree. (Does never follow symbolic links.) If <i>n</i> as a number between 2 and 9 (inclusive) is given, <i>n</i> files starting from the current selection are copied.
[n]">>"	Copy from first to second tree. (Does never follow symbolic links.)
[n]"<F"	Copy from second to first tree, symbolic links are always followed. If <i>n</i> as a number between 2 and 9 (inclusive) is given, <i>n</i> files starting from the current selection are copied.
[n]">F"	Copy from first to second tree, symbolic links are always followed.
[n]"dd"	Delete file or directory, which must be present in one tree only. (Does not follow symbolic links.) vddiff does not warn if a directory to delete is not empty. If <i>n</i> as a number between 2 and 9 (inclusive) is given, <i>n</i> files starting from the current selection are deleted.
[n]"dl"	Delete file or directory in first tree. (Does not follow symbolic links.)
[n]"dr"	Delete file or directory in second tree. (Does not follow symbolic links.)
"en"	Rename file, which must be present in one tree only.
"eln"	Rename file in first tree.
"ern"	Rename file in second tree.
[n]"ep"	Change permissions of file, which must be present in one tree only. If following symbolic links is not enabled the command is ignored for symbolic links. If decimal digit <i>n</i> is given, the mode of <i>n</i> files starting from the current selection is set.
[n]"elp"	Change permissions of file in first tree.
[n]"erp"	Change permissions of file in second tree.
[n]"eu"	Change owner of file, which must be present in one tree only. If following symbolic links is not enabled the command is ignored for symbolic links. Previously entered user names are saved in a history, which can be accessed with the <UP> and <DOWN> keys. If decimal digit <i>n</i> is given, the owner of <i>n</i> files starting from the current selection is set.
[n]"elu"	Change owner of file in first tree.
[n]"eru"	Change owner of file in second tree.
[n]"eg"	Change group of file, which must be present in one tree only. If following symbolic links is not enabled the command is ignored for symbolic links. Previously entered group names are saved in a history, which can be accessed with the <UP> and <DOWN> keys. If decimal digit <i>n</i> is given, the group of <i>n</i> files starting from the current selection is set.
[n]"elg"	Change group of file in first tree.
[n]"erg"	Change group of file in second tree.
'p'	Create directory (bmode only).
"Pl"	Create directory in left tree.
"Pr"	Create directory in right tree.
'm'	Mark file or directory. This can be used to compare files or directories which had been renamed or compressed in one file tree.

Marks are defined globally and can be used to compare files from different file hierarchy depths. They can only be undefined with the ‘r’ key (or redefined with the ‘m’ key).

If a mark is set, only **<RIGHT>** and double click can be used to normally view files or change to other directories. **<ENTER>** starts a diff between the marked and the selected file or directory.

- ‘r’ Remove mark, edit line, or regex search.
- ‘b’ Test for binary difference between selected and marked file. Compressed files are unpacked but compressed archive files are compared directly.
- ‘y’ Copy file path(s) to edit line. If a ‘\$’ command is entered later, this file path can be used to build a `sh(1)` command.
- ‘Y’ Copy file paths to edit line in reverse order.
- ‘\$’ Enter shell command. If paths had been copied to the edit line before using the ‘y’ or ‘Y’ command, the shell command can be prepended by pressing **<HOME>** and then entering the command. Predefined strings can be inserted by pressing a function key. The work directory is the directory where **vddiff** had been started. (If **-B** or option **bmode** is used, the work directory is always the current view directory.) Each entered command is saved in a history. The keys **<UP>** and **<DOWN>** fetch other history entries. The shell to be used (default “sh”) can be configured with the **sh** option.

[n]**<F1>** – **<F12>**

Define string which can be inserted later with this function key when entering a `sh` command using ‘\$’. This string is usually the name of a UNIX tool. Regularly used strings can be set using the RC file **fkey** command.

If the string begins with a ‘\$’ followed by at least one space (‘ ’) it is treated as shell command itself, which is applied to a selected file(s). If that function key is pressed later, a dialog opens to ask if the command should be executed or the function key should be redefined. The filename is appended to the saved string. To embed it, “\$1” and “\$2” can be used, as in “\$ `nroff $1 | less`”. If *n* as a number between 2 and 9 (inclusive) is given, the command is applied to *n* files starting from the current selection.

To save a command for a function key which does not take the selected filename as argument, add a space followed by an octothorpe (“#”) at the end of the string.

If no diff tool which supports merging is available, files can be merged manually by defining two function keys for editing the left and right side file with “\$ `vi $1`” and “\$ `vi $2`”.

- ‘l’ List strings which had been defined for a function key.
- ‘u’ Update file list.
- ‘s’ Open shell in current directory. The shell to open can be set with the **shell** option, else it is read from the user’s entry in `/etc/passwd`.
- “sl” Open shell in left directory tree.
- “sr” Open shell in right directory tree.
- ‘o’ Open file (instead of diff tool).
- “ol” Open left file or directory. Plain files are opened with `less(1)` by default. If no diff tool which supports merging is available, files can be merged manually opening them with

	“ol” or “or” and then pressing ‘v’ in less which opens vi.
“or”	Open right file or directory.
‘v’	View raw file contents.
“vl”	View raw left file contents.
“vr”	View raw right file contents.
‘:’	Enter configuration option. Entering set displays the current setting of the changable options. Currently the options (no) ic , (no) magic , and (no) ws are supported. Previously entered options are saved in a history, which can be accessed with the <UP> and <DOWN> keys.

CONFIGURATION FILE ~/.vddiffrc

Permanent non-default options can be set in the file ~/.vddiffrc. The elements in this file may be separated with spaces, tabs or line breaks. Line breaks are not required, everything can be written into one long line. Also spaces or tabs are not required (outside quoted strings), when every element is on it's own line. Everything following a '#' (outside quoted strings) to the end of the line is a comment.

`difftool string`

Configure *string* as diff tool. If *string* contains spaces it needs to be quoted with ‘”’ at begin and end. The two filenames are appended to this string. If the filenames need to be before a pipe symbol (‘|’), the symbols “\$1” and “\$2” can be embedded into *string* (in any order). These symbols are expanded to the respective filename.

Other possible diff tools are `colordiff(1)`, `mgdiff(1)`, and `tkxcd(1)`.

`difftool bg string`

Start *string* as a background process (don't block **vddiff** while executing *string*). **bg** is ignored if *string* contains \$n. Put ‘&’ at the end of *string* in this case. **bg** is also ignored if one of the files to be compared is compressed. Since they are decompressed into a temporary directory which is removed after starting the diff tool, the file may be removed before the tool reads it.

`viewtool string`

Configure *string* as view tool. If *string* contains spaces it needs to be quoted with ‘”’ at begin and end. The filename is appended to this string. If the filename need to be before a pipe symbol (‘|’) the symbol “\$1” can be embedded into *string*, which is expanded to the filename.

`viewtool bg string`

Start *string* as a background process. **bg** is ignored if *string* contains \$n. Put ‘&’ at the end of *string* in this case. **bg** is also ignored if the file to be viewed is compressed. Since it is decompressed into a temporary directory which is removed after starting the view tool, the file may be removed before the tool reads it.

`ext extension string`

Configure view tool *string* for filenames ending with “.extension”. *extension* is compared case-insensitive. If *extension* is an integer number it needs to be enclosed in double quotes (‘”’) as in

```
ext "1" "tbl $1 | neqn | nroff -mandoc | less"
```

because the parser expects a string (and not a number) after the keyword `ext`.

`ext extension bg string`

Start *string* as a background process.

`skipext extension`

When checking a filename extension skip *extension* at the end of the filename. E.g.

`skipext old`

would remove “.old” from the end of each filename before checking the extension.

`fkey number string`

Define *string* which can be inserted later with this function key when entering a `sh` command using ‘\$’. This string is usually the name of a UNIX tool. *number* must be between 1 and 12 (inclusive).

If *string* begins with a ‘\$’ followed by at least one space (the string needs to be enclosed in double quotes in this case), it defines a shell command to be executed for the selected file when pressing the function key.

To save a command for a function key which does not take the selected filename as argument, add a space followed by an octothorpe (“#”) at the end of the string.

`mono` Disable colors.

`followlinks`

Follow symbolic links. (Note that the integrated file copy, rename, and delete operations never follow symbolic links.)

`noequal` Display differences only, hide equal files.

`real_diff` Show only directories which exist in both trees and really different files.

`recursive` Recursively scan file tree to detect and mark directories which contain differences. This increases the start time. To show only directories with differences additionally set option `real_diff`. To view all files when in this mode key ‘c’ can be used.

`noic` Searching for a filename with ‘/’ or “//” is normally done case-insensitive. Case-sensitive search can be configured with this option.

`magic` For searching with “//” normally basic regular expressions are used. Use of extended regular expressions is configured with this option.

`nows` Searching for a filename with “//” normally wraps around top and bottom of the file list. This behaviour is disabled with this option.

`filesfirst` Display directories at the end instead on top.

`mixed` Display files and directories mixed.

`dir_color integer`

Set color for directories. Default is 3 (yellow).

`diff_color integer`

Set color for different files. Default is 1 (red).

`link_color integer`

Set color for symbolic links. Default is 5 (magenta).

`left_color integer`

- Set color for files found in first directory only. Default is 6 (cyan).
- right_color integer*
Set color for files found in second directory only. Default is 2 (green).
- unknown_color integer*
Set color for unknown file types. Default is 4 (blue).
- histsize integer*
Set history size to *integer*. Default is 100. A size less than 2 disables the history (at least the current command line and one previous entry need to be saved to use this feature).
- scale*
Show file size in human-readable format.
- bmode*
If **vddiff** is started with only one or no argument it behaves like a simple single directory view file browser. By use of marks files can be compared in bmode, but comparing directories is not possible.
- shell string*
Set shell for the ‘s’, “sl” and “sr” command. Default is the user’s login shell. *string* may be a full path or just the shell name. In the latter case \$PATH is searched to determine the full path.
- sh string*
Set shell for the ‘\$’ and function key commands, .gz and .bz2 uncompressing and any use of the shell special characters |, &, ;, <, >, (,), `, \, ", ', [, #, and ~. Default is “sh”. *string* may be a full path or just the shell name. In the latter case \$PATH is searched to determine the full path.

FILES

- ~/.vddiffrc*
Read on start-up to set non-default options.