## Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'diff.1' command

### $ man diff.1

GNU(1)                          User Commands                          GNU(1)

NAME

    GNU diff - compare files line by line

SYNOPSIS

    diff [OPTION]... FILES

DESCRIPTION

    Compare FILES line by line.

    Mandatory  arguments  to  long  options are mandatory for short options

    too.

    --normal

        output a normal diff (the default)

    -q, --brief

        report only when files differ

    -s, --report-identical-files

        report when two files are the same

    -c, -C NUM, --context[=NUM]

        output NUM (default 3) lines of copied context

    -u, -U NUM, --unified[=NUM]

        output NUM (default 3) lines of unified context

    -e, --ed

        output an ed script

    -n, --rcs

        output an RCS format diff

-y, --side-by-side

    output in two columns

-W, --width=NUM

    output at most NUM (default 130) print columns

--left-column

    output only the left column of common lines

--suppress-common-lines

    do not output common lines

-p, --show-c-function

    show which C function each change is in

-F, --show-function-line=RE

    show the most recent line matching RE

--label LABEL

    use LABEL instead of file name and timestamp (can be repeated)

-t, --expand-tabs

    expand tabs to spaces in output

-T, --initial-tab

    make tabs line up by prepending a tab

--tabsize=NUM

    tab stops every NUM (default 8) print columns

--suppress-blank-empty

    suppress space or tab before empty output lines

-l, --paginate

    pass output through 'pr' to paginate it

-r, --recursive

    recursively compare any subdirectories found

--no-dereference

    don't follow symbolic links

-N, --new-file

    treat absent files as empty

--unidirectional-new-file

    treat absent first files as empty

--ignore-file-name-case

ignore case when comparing file names

--no-ignore-file-name-case

consider case when comparing file names

-x, --exclude=PAT

exclude files that match PAT

-X, --exclude-from=FILE

exclude files that match any pattern in FILE

-S, --starting-file=FILE

start with FILE when comparing directories

--from-file=FILE1

compare FILE1 to all operands; FILE1 can be a directory

--to-file=FILE2

compare all operands to FILE2; FILE2 can be a directory

-i, --ignore-case

ignore case differences in file contents

-E, --ignore-tab-expansion

ignore changes due to tab expansion

-Z, --ignore-trailing-space

ignore white space at line end

-b, --ignore-space-change

ignore changes in the amount of white space

-w, --ignore-all-space

ignore all white space

-B, --ignore-blank-lines

ignore changes where lines are all blank

-I, --ignore-matching-lines=RE

ignore changes where all lines match RE

-a, --text

treat all files as text

--strip-trailing-cr

strip trailing carriage return on input

-D, --ifdef=NAME

output merged file with '#ifdef NAME' diffs

--GTYPE-group-format=GFMT

    format GTYPE input groups with GFMT

--line-format=LFMT

    format all input lines with LFMT

--LTYPE-line-format=LFMT

    format LTYPE input lines with LFMT

    These format options provide fine-grained control over the  out?

    put

    of diff, generalizing -D/--ifdef.

LTYPE is 'old', 'new', or 'unchanged'.

    GTYPE is LTYPE or 'changed'.

    GFMT (only) may contain:

%<    lines from FILE1

%>    lines from FILE2

%=    lines common to FILE1 and FILE2

%[-][WIDTH][.[PREC]]{doxX}LETTER

    printf-style spec for LETTER

    LETTERs are as follows for new group, lower case for old group:

F    first line number

L    last line number

N    number of lines = L-F+1

E    F-1

M    L+1

%(A=B?T:E)

    if A equals B then T else E

    LFMT (only) may contain:

%L    contents of line

%l    contents of line, excluding any trailing newline

%[-][WIDTH][.[PREC]]{doxX}n

    printf-style spec for input line number

    Both GFMT and LFMT may contain:

%%    %

%c'C'  the single character C

%c'\OOO'

    the character with octal code OOO

C    the character C (other characters represent themselves)

-d, --minimal

    try hard to find a smaller set of changes

--horizon-lines=NUM

    keep NUM lines of the common prefix and suffix

--speed-large-files

    assume large files and many scattered small changes

--color[=WHEN]

    colorize  the  output;  WHEN can be 'never', 'always', or 'auto'

    (the default)

--palette=PALETTE

    the  colors  to  use  when  --color  is  active;  PALETTE  is  a

    colon-separated list of terminfo capabilities

--help display this help and exit

-v, --version

    output version information and exit

FILES are 'FILE1 FILE2' or 'DIR1 DIR2' or 'DIR FILE' or 'FILE DIR'.  If

--from-file or  --to-file  is  given,  there  are  no  restrictions  on

FILE(s).   If  a FILE is '-', read standard input.  Exit status is 0 if

inputs are the same, 1 if different, 2 if trouble.

AUTHOR

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    and Len Tower.

REPORTING BUGS

    Report bugs to: bug-diffutils@gnu.org

    GNU diffutils home page: <http://www.gnu.org/software/diffutils/>

    General help using GNU software: <https://www.gnu.org/gethelp/>

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SEE ALSO

wdiff(1), cmp(1), diff3(1), sdiff(1), patch(1)

The  full  documentation for GNU is maintained as a Texinfo manual.  If the info and GNU programs are properly installed at your site, the com?mand

     info GNU

should give you access to the complete manual.

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