

**NAME**

GNU diff3 – compare three files line by line

**SYNOPSIS**

**diff3** [*OPTION*]... *MYFILE OLDFILE YOURFILE*

**DESCRIPTION**

Compare three files line by line.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.

- A, --show-all**  
output all changes, bracketing conflicts
- e, --ed**  
output ed script incorporating changes from OLDFILE to YOURFILE into MYFILE
- E, --show-overlap**  
like **-e**, but bracket conflicts
- 3, --easy-only**  
like **-e**, but incorporate only nonoverlapping changes
- x, --overlap-only**  
like **-e**, but incorporate only overlapping changes
- X** like **-x**, but bracket conflicts
- i** append 'w' and 'q' commands to ed scripts
- m, --merge**  
output actual merged file, according to **-A** if no other options are given
- a, --text**  
treat all files as text
- strip-trailing-cr**  
strip trailing carriage return on input
- T, --initial-tab**  
make tabs line up by prepending a tab
- diff-program=PROGRAM**  
use PROGRAM to compare files
- L, --label=LABEL**  
use LABEL instead of file name (can be repeated up to three times)
- help** display this help and exit
- v, --version**  
output version information and exit

The default output format is a somewhat human-readable representation of the changes.

The **-e**, **-E**, **-x**, **-X** (and corresponding long) options cause an ed script to be output instead of the default.

Finally, the **-m** (**--merge**) option causes diff3 to do the merge internally and output the actual merged file. For unusual input, this is more robust than using ed.

If a FILE is '-', read standard input. Exit status is 0 if successful, 1 if conflicts, 2 if trouble.

**AUTHOR**

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**REPORTING BUGS**

Report bugs to: [bug-diffutils@gnu.org](mailto:bug-diffutils@gnu.org)

GNU diffutils home page: [<https://www.gnu.org/software/diffutils/>](https://www.gnu.org/software/diffutils/)

General help using GNU software: [<https://www.gnu.org/gethelp/>](https://www.gnu.org/gethelp/)

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**SEE ALSO**

`cmp(1)`, `diff(1)`, `sdiff(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 command

**info GNU**

should give you access to the complete manual.