

NAME

`gperl` – groff preprocessor for Perl parts in roff files

SYNOPSIS

`gperl` [*filespec* ...]

`gperl -h`

`gperl --help`

`gperl -v`

`gperl --version`

DESCRIPTION

This is a preprocessor for **groff**(1). It allows the use of **perl**(7) code in **groff**(7) files. The result of a *Perl part* can be stored in groff *strings* or *numerical registers* based on the arguments at a final line of a *Perl part*.

OPTIONS

So far, there are only *filespec* or *breaking* options.

filespec are file names or the minus character – character for standard input. As usual, the argument `--` can be used in order to let all following arguments mean file names, even if the names begin with a minus character –.

An option is *breaking*, when the program just writes the information that was asked for and then stops. All other arguments will be ignored by that. These *breaking* options are here

`-h` | `--help`

Print help information with a short explanation of options to standard output.

`-v` | `--version`

Print version information to standard output.

PERL PARTS

Perl parts in *groff files* are enclosed by two **.Perl** requests with different arguments, a *starting* and an *ending* command.

Starting Perl Mode

The starting *Perl request* can either be without arguments, or by a request that has the term **start** as its only argument.

- **.Perl**
- **.Perl start**

Ending Perl Mode without Storage

A **.Perl** command line with an argument different from **start** finishes a running *Perl part*. Of course, it would be reasonable to add the argument **stop**; that's possible, but not necessary.

- **.Perl stop**
- **.Perl other_than_start**

The argument *other_than_start* can additionally be used as a *groff* string variable name for storage — see next section.

Ending Perl Mode with Storage

A useful feature of **gperl** is to store one or more results from the *Perl mode*.

The output of a *Perl part* can be got with backticks ``...``.

This program collects all printing to STDOUT (normal standard output) by the Perl **print** program. This pseudo-printing output can have several lines, due to printed line breaks with **\n**. By that, the output of a Perl run should be stored into a Perl array, with a single line for each array member.

This Perl array output can be stored by **gperl** in either

groff strings

by creating a groff command **.ds**

groff number register

by creating a groff command **.nr**

The storage modes can be determined by arguments of a final stopping **.Perl** command. Each argument **.ds** changes the mode into *groff string* and **.nr** changes the mode into *groff number register* for all following output parts.

By default, all output is saved as strings, so **.ds** is not really needed before the first **.nr** command. That suits to **groff(7)**, because every output can be saved as *groff string*, but the number registers can be very restrictive.

In *string mode*, **gperl** generates a *groff string* storage line

```
.ds var_name content
```

In *number register mode* the following groff command is generated

```
.nr var_name content
```

We present argument collections in the following. You can add as first argument for all **stop**. We omit this additional element.

.Perl .ds *var_name*

This will store 1 output line into the groff string named *var_name* by the automatically created command

```
.ds var_name output
```

.Perl *var_name*

If *var_name* is different from **start** this is equivalent to the former command, because the string mode is string with **.ds** command. default.

.Perl *var_name1* *var_name2*

This will store 2 output lines into groff string names *var_name1* and *var_name2*, because the default mode **.ds** is active, such that no **.ds** argument is needed. Of course, this is equivalent to

```
.Perl .ds var_name1 var_name2
```

and

```
.Perl .ds var_name1 .ds var_name2
```

.Perl .nr *var_name1* *varname2*

stores both variables as number register variables. **gperl** generates

```
.nr var_name1 output_line1
```

```
.nr var_name2 output_line2
```

.Perl .nr *var_name1* **.ds** *var_name2*

stores the 1st argument as *number register* and the second as *string* by

```
.nr var_name1 output_line1
```

```
.ds var_name2 output_line2
```

Printing towards **STDERR** is without Storage

The printing towards **STDERR**, (standard error) works as usual. All error information goes to the real normal *standard error*, without other automatic storage.

EXAMPLES

A possible *Perl part* in a *roff file* could look like that:

```
before
.Pperl start
my $result = 'some data';
print $result;
.Pperl stop .ds string_var
after
```

This stores the result **"some data"** into the *roff string* called **string_var**, such that the following line is

printed:

```
.ds string_var some data  
by gperl as food for the coming groff run.
```

A *Perl part* with several outputs is:

```
.Perl start  
print "first\n";  
print "second line\n";  
print "3\n";  
.Perl var1 var2 .nr var3
```

This stores 3 printed lines into 3 *groff* strings. **var1,var2,var3**. So the following *groff* command lines are created:

```
.ds var1 first  
.ds var2 second line  
.nr var3 3
```

AUTHORS

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SEE ALSO

Man pages related to *groff* are **groff(1)**, **groff(7)**, **grog(1)**, and **groffer(1)**.

Documents related to *Perl* are **perl(1)**, **perl(7)**.