NAME

man - display online manual documentation pages

SYNOPSIS

man [**-adho**] [**-t** | **-w**] [**-M** *manpath*] [**-P** *pager*] [**-S** *mansect*] [**-m** *arch*[:*machine*]] [**-p** [*eprtv*]] [*mansect*]
    page ...
man -K *regexp* ...
man -f *keyword* ...
man -k *keyword* ...

DESCRIPTION

The **man** utility finds and displays online manual documentation pages. If *mansect* is provided, **man** restricts the search to the specific section of the manual.

The sections of the manual are:

1. FreeBSD General Commands Manual
2. FreeBSD System Calls Manual
3. FreeBSD Library Functions Manual
4. FreeBSD Kernel Interfaces Manual
5. FreeBSD File Formats Manual
6. FreeBSD Games Manual
7. FreeBSD Miscellaneous Information Manual
8. FreeBSD System Manager's Manual
9. FreeBSD Kernel Developer's Manual

Options that **man** understands:

-K *regexp*

Does a full text search in all manual pages. *regexp* is a regular expression as understood by "grep -E". This option requires mandoc(1). This is a slow operation.

-M *manpath*

Forces a specific colon separated manual path instead of the default search path. See manpath(1). Overrides the MANPATH environment variable.

-P *pager*

Use specified pager. Defaults to "less -sR" if color support is enabled, or "less -s". Overrides the MANPAGER environment variable, which in turn overrides the PAGER environment variable.

-S *mansect*

Restricts manual sections searched to the specified colon delimited list. Defaults to
"1:8:2:3:3lua:n:4:5:6:7:9:l". Overrides the MANSECT environment variable.

-a   Display all manual pages instead of just the first found for each *page* argument.

-d   Print extra debugging information. Repeat for increased verbosity. Does not display the manual
page.

-f   Emulate whatis(1).

-h   Display short help message and exit.

-k   Emulate apropos(1).

-m *arch*[:*machine*]
Override the default architecture and machine settings allowing lookup of other platform specific
manual pages. See *IMPLEMENTATION NOTES* for how this option changes the default
behavior. Overrides the MACHINE_ARCH and MACHINE environment variables.

-o   Force use of non-localized manual pages. See *IMPLEMENTATION NOTES* for how locale
specific searches work. Overrides the LC_ALL, LC_CTYPE, and LANG environment variables.

-p [**eprtv**]
Use the list of given preprocessors before running nroff(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*) or troff(1)
(*ports/textproc/groff*). Valid preprocessors arguments:

e   eqn(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*)
p   pic(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*)
r   refer(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*)
t   tbl(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*)
v   vgrind(1)

Overrides the MANROFFSEQ environment variable.

-t   Send manual page source through troff(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*) allowing transformation of the
manual pages to other formats.

-w   Display the location of the manual page instead of the contents of the manual page.

IMPLEMENTATION NOTES

Locale Specific Searches

The **man** utility supports manual pages in different locales. The search behavior is dictated by the first of three environment variables with a nonempty string: LC_ALL, LC_CTYPE, or LANG. If set, **man** will search for locale specific manual pages using the following logic:

> *lang_country.charset*
> *lang.charset*
> en.*charset*

For example, if LC_ALL is set to "ja_JP.eucJP", **man** will search the following paths when considering section 1 manual pages in */usr/share/man*:

> */usr/share/man/ja_JP.eucJP/man1*
> */usr/share/man/ja.eucJP/man1*
> */usr/share/man/en.eucJP/man1*
> */usr/share/man/man1*

Platform Specific Searches

The **man** utility supports platform specific manual pages. The search behavior is dictated by the **-m** option or the MACHINE_ARCH and MACHINE environment variables. For example, if MACHINE_ARCH is set to "aarch64" and MACHINE is set to "arm64", **man** will search the following paths when considering section 4 manual pages in */usr/share/man*:

> */usr/share/man/man4/aarch64*
> */usr/share/man/man4/arm64*
> */usr/share/man/man4*

Displaying Specific Manual Files

The **man** utility also supports displaying a specific manual page if passed a path to the file as long as it contains a '/' character.

ENVIRONMENT

The following environment variables affect the execution of **man**:

LC_ALL, LC_CTYPE, LANG

> Used to find locale specific manual pages. Valid values can be found by running the locale(1) command. See *IMPLEMENTATION NOTES* for details. Influenced by the **-o** option.

MACHINE_ARCH, MACHINE

Used to find platform specific manual pages. If unset, the output of "sysctl hw.machine_arch" and "sysctl hw.machine" is used respectively. See *IMPLEMENTATION NOTES* for details. Corresponds to the **-m** option.

MANPATH   The standard search path used by man(1) may be changed by specifying a path in the MANPATH environment variable. Invalid paths, or paths without manual databases, are ignored. Overridden by **-M**. If MANPATH begins with a colon, it is appended to the default list; if it ends with a colon, it is prepended to the default list; or if it contains two adjacent colons, the standard search path is inserted between the colons. If none of these conditions are met, it overrides the standard search path.

MANROFFSEQ Used to determine the preprocessors for the manual source before running nroff(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*) or troff(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*). If unset, defaults to tbl(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*). Corresponds to the **-p** option.

MANSECT   Restricts manual sections searched to the specified colon delimited list. Corresponds to the **-S** option.

MANWIDTH   If set to a numeric value, used as the width manpages should be displayed. Otherwise, if set to a special value "tty", and output is to a terminal, the pages may be displayed over the whole width of the screen.

MANCOLOR   If set, enables color support.

MANPAGER   Program used to display files.

               If unset, and color support is enabled, "less -sR" is used.

               If unset, and color support is disabled, then PAGER is used. If that has no value either, "less -s" is used.

FILES
/etc/man.conf
        System configuration file.
/usr/local/etc/man.d/.conf*
        Local configuration files.

EXIT STATUS
The **man** utility exits 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

EXAMPLES

Show the manual page for stat(2):

    $ man 2 stat

Show all manual pages for 'stat'.

    $ man -a stat

List manual pages which match the regular expression either in the title or in the body:

    $ man -k '\<copy\>.*archive'

Show the manual page for ls(1) and use cat(1) as pager:

    $ man -P cat ls

Show the location of the ls(1) manual page:

    $ man -w ls

Show the location of manual pages in sections 1 and 8 which contain the word 'arm':

    $ ./man -w -K '\<arm\>' -S 1:8

SEE ALSO

apropos(1), egrep(1), intro(1), mandoc(1), manpath(1), whatis(1), intro(2), intro(3), intro(3lua), intro(4), intro(5), man.conf(5), intro(6), intro(7), mdoc(7), intro(8), intro(9)