NAME

pod2text - Convert POD data to formatted ASCII text

SYNOPSIS

pod2text [**-aclostu**] [**--code**] [**--errors**=*style*] [**-i** *indent*] [**-q** *quotes*] [**--nourls**] [**--stderr**] [**-w** *width*] [*input* [*output* ...]]

pod2text **-h**

DESCRIPTION

pod2text is a front-end for Pod::Text and its subclasses. It uses them to generate formatted ASCII text from POD source. It can optionally use either termcap sequences or ANSI color escape sequences to format the text.

input is the file to read for POD source (the POD can be embedded in code). If *input* isn't given, it defaults to STDIN. *output*, if given, is the file to which to write the formatted output. If *output* isn't given, the formatted output is written to STDOUT. Several POD files can be processed in the same **pod2text** invocation (saving module load and compile times) by providing multiple pairs of *input* and *output* files on the command line.

OPTIONS

-a, **--alt**

Use an alternate output format that, among other things, uses a different heading style and marks =item entries with a colon in the left margin.

--code

Include any non-POD text from the input file in the output as well. Useful for viewing code documented with POD blocks with the POD rendered and the code left intact.

-c, **--color**

Format the output with ANSI color escape sequences. Using this option requires that Term::ANSIColor be installed on your system.

--errors=*style*

Set the error handling style. die says to throw an exception on any POD formatting error. stderr says to report errors on standard error, but not to throw an exception. pod says to include a POD ERRORS section in the resulting documentation summarizing the errors. none ignores POD errors entirely, as much as possible.

The default is die.

-i *indent*, **--indent=**indent*

Set the number of spaces to indent regular text, and the default indentation for =over blocks. Defaults to 4 spaces if this option isn't given.

-h, **--help**

Print out usage information and exit.

-l, **--loose**

Print a blank line after a =head1 heading. Normally, no blank line is printed after =head1, although one is still printed after =head2, because this is the expected formatting for manual pages; if you're formatting arbitrary text documents, using this option is recommended.

-m *width*, **--left-margin**=*width*, **--margin**=*width*

The width of the left margin in spaces. Defaults to 0. This is the margin for all text, including headings, not the amount by which regular text is indented; for the latter, see **-i** option.

--nourls

Normally, L<> formatting codes with a URL but anchor text are formatted to show both the anchor text and the URL. In other words:

```
L<foo|http://example.com/>
```

is formatted as:

```
foo <http://example.com/>
```

This flag, if given, suppresses the URL when anchor text is given, so this example would be formatted as just `foo`. This can produce less cluttered output in cases where the URLs are not particularly important.

-o, **--overstrike**

Format the output with overstrike printing. Bold text is rendered as character, backspace, character. Italics and file names are rendered as underscore, backspace, character. Many pagers, such as **less**, know how to convert this to bold or underlined text.

-q *quotes*, **--quotes**=*quotes*

Sets the quote marks used to surround C<> text to *quotes.* If *quotes* is a single character, it is used as both the left and right quote. Otherwise, it is split in half, and the first half of the string is used as the left quote and the second is used as the right quote.

quotes may also be set to the special value `none`, in which case no quote marks are added around C<> text.

-s, **--sentence**

Assume each sentence ends with two spaces and try to preserve that spacing. Without this option, all consecutive whitespace in non-verbatim paragraphs is compressed into a single space.

--stderr

By default, **pod2text** dies if any errors are detected in the POD input. If **--stderr** is given and no **--errors** flag is present, errors are sent to standard error, but **pod2text** does not abort. This is equivalent to `--errors=stderr` and is supported for backward compatibility.

-t, **--termcap**

Try to determine the width of the screen and the bold and underline sequences for the terminal from termcap, and use that information in formatting the output. Output will be wrapped at two columns less than the width of your terminal device. Using this option requires that your system have a termcap file somewhere where Term::Cap can find it and requires that your system support termios. With this option, the output of **pod2text** will contain terminal control sequences for your current terminal type.

-u, **--utf8**

By default, **pod2text** tries to use the same output encoding as its input encoding (to be backward-compatible with older versions). This option says to instead force the output encoding to UTF-8.

Be aware that, when using this option, the input encoding of your POD source should be properly declared unless it's US-ASCII. Pod::Simple will attempt to guess the encoding and may be successful if it's Latin-1 or UTF-8, but it will warn, which by default results in a **pod2text** failure. Use the `=encoding` command to declare the encoding. See *perlpod(1)* for more information.

-w, **--width=**_width_, **-**_width_

The column at which to wrap text on the right-hand side. Defaults to 76, unless **-t** is given, in

which case it's two columns less than the width of your terminal device.

EXIT STATUS

As long as all documents processed result in some output, even if that output includes errata (a POD ERRORS section generated with `--errors=pod`), **pod2text** will exit with status 0. If any of the documents being processed do not result in an output document, **pod2text** will exit with status 1. If there are syntax errors in a POD document being processed and the error handling style is set to the default of `die`, **pod2text** will abort immediately with exit status 255.

DIAGNOSTICS

If **pod2text** fails with errors, see *Pod::Text* and *Pod::Simple* for information about what those errors might mean. Internally, it can also produce the following diagnostics:

-c (--color) requires Term::ANSIColor be installed

(F) **-c** or **--color** were given, but Term::ANSIColor could not be loaded.

Unknown option: %s

(F) An unknown command line option was given.

In addition, other *Getopt::Long* error messages may result from invalid command-line options.

ENVIRONMENT

COLUMNS

If **-t** is given, **pod2text** will take the current width of your screen from this environment variable, if available. It overrides terminal width information in TERMCAP.

TERMCAP

If **-t** is given, **pod2text** will use the contents of this environment variable if available to determine the correct formatting sequences for your current terminal device.

SEE ALSO

Pod::Text, *Pod::Text::Color*, *Pod::Text::Overstrike*, *Pod::Text::Termcap*, *Pod::Simple*, *perlpod(1)*

The current version of this script is always available from its web site at *http://www.eyrie.org/~eagle/software/podlators/*. It is also part of the Perl core distribution as of 5.6.0.

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