

NAME

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

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

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

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SEE ALSO

cmp(1), **diff**(1), **sdiff**(1)

The full documentation for **diff3** is maintained as a Texinfo manual. If the **info** and **diff3** programs are properly installed at your site, the command

info diff3

should give you access to the complete manual.