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Help and Documentation

Help on external commands

External commands are binary executables or scripts generally found in /bin, /sbin, /usr/bin ou /usr/sbin :

```
root@debian8:~# type ifconfig
ifconfig is /sbin/ifconfig
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# type ifconfig
ifconfig is /sbin/ifconfig
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# type ifconfig
ifconfig is /sbin/ifconfig
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # type ifconfig
ifconfig is /sbin/ifconfig
```

Help for an external command can generally be obtained by using the **-help** option with the command in question :

```
root@debian8:~# du --help | more
Usage: du [OPTION]... [FILE]...
  or:  du [OPTION]... --files0-from=F
Summarize disk usage of each FILE, recursively for directories.
```

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

-0, --null	end each output line with NUL, not newline
-a, --all	write counts for all files, not just directories
--apparent-size	print apparent sizes, rather than disk usage; although

```
the apparent size is usually smaller, it may be
larger due to holes in ('sparse') files, internal
fragmentation, indirect blocks, and the like
-B, --block-size=SIZE  scale sizes by SIZE before printing them; e.g.,
                        '-BM' prints sizes in units of 1,048,576 bytes;
                        see SIZE format below
-b, --bytes            equivalent to '--apparent-size --block-size=1'
-c, --total            produce a grand total
-D, --dereference-args dereference only symlinks that are listed on the
                        command line
-d, --max-depth=N      print the total for a directory (or file, with --all)
                        only if it is N or fewer levels below the command
                        line argument; --max-depth=0 is the same as
                        --summarize
--files0-from=F        summarize disk usage of the
--More--
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# du --help | more
```

```
Usage: du [OPTION]... [FILE]...
```

```
or: du [OPTION]... --files0-from=F
```

```
Summarize disk usage of the set of FILES, recursively for directories.
```

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

```
-0, --null            end each output line with NUL, not newline
-a, --all            write counts for all files, not just directories
--apparent-size      print apparent sizes, rather than disk usage; although
                    the apparent size is usually smaller, it may be
                    larger due to holes in ('sparse') files, internal
                    fragmentation, indirect blocks, and the like
-B, --block-size=SIZE scale sizes by SIZE before printing them; e.g.,
                    '-BM' prints sizes in units of 1,048,576 bytes;
                    see SIZE format below
-b, --bytes          equivalent to '--apparent-size --block-size=1'
-c, --total          produce a grand total
```

```
-D, --dereference-args  dereference only symlinks that are listed on the
                        command line
-d, --max-depth=N      print the total for a directory (or file, with --all)
                        only if it is N or fewer levels below the command
                        line argument; --max-depth=0 is the same as
                        --summarize
    --files0-from=F    summarize disk usage of the
--More--
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# du --help | more
Usage: du [OPTION]... [FILE]...
    or:  du [OPTION]... --files0-from=F
Summarize disk usage of each FILE, recursively for directories.
```

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

```
-0, --null              end each output line with 0 byte rather than newline
-a, --all              write counts for all files, not just directories
    --apparent-size    print apparent sizes, rather than disk usage; although
                        the apparent size is usually smaller, it may be
                        larger due to holes in ('sparse') files, internal
                        fragmentation, indirect blocks, and the like
-B, --block-size=SIZE  scale sizes by SIZE before printing them; e.g.,
                        '-BM' prints sizes in units of 1,048,576 bytes;
                        see SIZE format below
-b, --bytes            equivalent to '--apparent-size --block-size=1'
-c, --total            produce a grand total
-D, --dereference-args dereference only symlinks that are listed on the
                        command line
-d, --max-depth=N      print the total for a directory (or file, with --all)
                        only if it is N or fewer levels below the command
                        line argument; --max-depth=0 is the same as
                        --summarize
    --files0-from=F    summarize disk usage of the
--More--
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # du --help | more
Usage: du [OPTION]... [FILE]...
  or:  du [OPTION]... --files0-from=F
Summarize disk usage of each FILE, recursively for directories.

Mandatory arguments to long options are mandatory for short options too.
  -0, --null                end each output line with 0 byte rather than newline
  -a, --all                 write counts for all files, not just directories
    --apparent-size        print apparent sizes, rather than disk usage; although
                           the apparent size is usually smaller, it may be
                           larger due to holes in ('sparse') files, internal
                           fragmentation, indirect blocks, and the like
  -B, --block-size=SIZE    scale sizes by SIZE before printing them; e.g.,
                           '-BM' prints sizes in units of 1,048,576 bytes;
                           see SIZE format below
  -b, --bytes              equivalent to '--apparent-size --block-size=1'
  -c, --total              produce a grand total
  -D, --dereference-args   dereference only symlinks that are listed on the
                           command line
  -d, --max-depth=N        print the total for a directory (or file, with --all)
                           only if it is N or fewer levels below the command
                           line argument; --max-depth=0 is the same as
                           --summarize
    --files0-from=F        summarize disk usage of the
--More--
```

Use with certain commands, the **-help** option is not valid:

```
root@debian8:~# type --help
-su: type: --: invalid option
type: usage: type [-afptP] name [name ...]
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# type --help
-su: type: --: invalid option
```

```
type: usage: type [-afptP] name [name ...]
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# type --help  
-bash: type: --: invalid option  
type: usage: type [-afptP] name [name ...]
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # type --help  
-bash: type: --: invalid option  
type: usage: type [-afptP] name [name ...]
```

Help on built-in commands

Commands such as **type**, **cd** or **umask** are internal to the shell:

```
root@debian8:~# type type  
type is a shell builtin
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# type type  
type is a shell builtin
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# type type  
type is a shell builtin
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # type type  
type is a shell builtin
```

One of the internal Bash commands is **help**. Used with no argument, this command shows a list of all the internal commands:

```
root@debian8:~# help | more  
GNU bash, version 4.3.30(1)-release (x86_64-pc-linux-gnu)  
These shell commands are defined internally. Type `help' to see this list.  
Type `help name' to find out more about the function `name'.
```

Use `info bash' to find out more about the shell in general.
 Use `man -k' or `info' to find out more about commands not in this list.

A star (*) next to a name means that the command is disabled.

job_spec [&]	history [-c] [-d offset] [n] or history -a>
((expression))	if COMMANDS; then COMMANDS; [elif COMMAND>
. filename [arguments]	jobs [-lnprs] [jobspec ...] or jobs -x com>
:	kill [-s sigspec -n signum -sigspec] p>
[arg...]	let arg [arg ...]
[[expression]]	local [option] name[=value] ...
alias [-p] [name[=value] ...]	logout [n]
bg [job_spec ...]	mapfile [-n count] [-O origin] [-s count] >
bind [-lpsvPSVX] [-m keymap] [-f filename] >	popd [-n] [+N -N]
break [n]	printf [-v var] format [arguments]
builtin [shell-builtin [arg ...]]	pushd [-n] [+N -N dir]
caller [expr]	pwd [-LP]
case WORD in [PATTERN [PATTERN]...) COMMA>	read [-ers] [-a array] [-d delim] [-i text>
cd [-L [-P [-e]] [-@]] [dir]	readarray [-n count] [-O origin] [-s count>
command [-pVv] command [arg ...]	readonly [-aAf] [name[=value] ...] or read>
--More--	

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# help | more
GNU bash, version 4.3.42(1)-release (x86_64-pc-linux-gnu)
These shell commands are defined internally. Type `help' to see this list.
Type `help name' to find out more about the function `name'.
Use `info bash' to find out more about the shell in general.
Use `man -k' or `info' to find out more about commands not in this list.
```

A star (*) next to a name means that the command is disabled.

job_spec [&]	history [-c] [-d offset] [n] or history ->
((expression))	if COMMANDS; then COMMANDS; [elif COMMAN>
. filename [arguments]	jobs [-lnprs] [jobspec ...] or jobs -x co>

```

:
[ arg... ]
[[ expression ]]
alias [-p] [name=value] ... ]
bg [job_spec ...]
bind [-lpsvPSVX] [-m keymap] [-f filename]>
break [n]
builtin [shell-builtin [arg ...]]
caller [expr]
case WORD in [PATTERN [| PATTERN]...) COMM>
cd [-L|[-P [-e]] [-@]] [dir]
command [-pVv] command [arg ...]
--More--
kill [-s sigspec | -n signum | -sigspec] >
let arg [arg ...]
local [option] name[=value] ...
logout [n]
mapfile [-n count] [-O origin] [-s count]>
popd [-n] [+N | -N]
printf [-v var] format [arguments]
pushd [-n] [+N | -N | dir]
pwd [-LP]
read [-ers] [-a array] [-d delim] [-i tex>
readarray [-n count] [-O origin] [-s coun>
readonly [-aAf] [name=value] ...] or rea>

```

```

[root@centos7 ~]# help | more
GNU bash, version 4.2.46(1)-release (x86_64-redhat-linux-gnu)
These shell commands are defined internally. Type `help' to see this list.
Type `help name' to find out more about the function `name'.
Use `info bash' to find out more about the shell in general.
Use `man -k' or `info' to find out more about commands not in this list.

```

A star (*) next to a name means that the command is disabled.

```

job_spec [&]
(( expression ))
. filename [arguments]
:
[ arg... ]
[[ expression ]]
alias [-p] [name=value] ... ]
bg [job_spec ...]
bind [-lpsvPVS] [-m keymap] [-f filename] [-q>
break [n]
builtin [shell-builtin [arg ...]]
history [-c] [-d offset] [n] or history -anr>
if COMMANDS; then COMMANDS; [ elif COMMANDS;>
jobs [-lnprs] [jobspec ...] or jobs -x comma>
kill [-s sigspec | -n signum | -sigspec] pid>
let arg [arg ...]
local [option] name[=value] ...
logout [n]
mapfile [-n count] [-O origin] [-s count] [->
popd [-n] [+N | -N]
printf [-v var] format [arguments]
pushd [-n] [+N | -N | dir]

```

```

caller [expr]
case WORD in [PATTERN [| PATTERN]...] COMMAND>
cd [-L|[-P [-e]]] [dir]
command [-pVv] command [arg ...]
--More--
pwd [-LP]
read [-ers] [-a array] [-d delim] [-i text] >
readarray [-n count] [-O origin] [-s count] >
readonly [-aAf] [name[=value] ...] or readon>

```

```

SLES12SP1:~ # help | more
GNU bash, version 4.2.47(1)-release (x86_64-suse-linux-gnu)
These shell commands are defined internally. Type `help' to see this list.
Type `help name' to find out more about the function `name'.
Use `info bash' to find out more about the shell in general.
Use `man -k' or `info' to find out more about commands not in this list.

```

A star (*) next to a name means that the command is disabled.

```

job_spec [&]
(( expression ))
. filename [arguments]
:
[ arg... ]
[[ expression ]]
alias [-p] [name[=value] ... ]
bg [job_spec ...]
bind [-lpvsPVS] [-m keymap] [-f filename] [-q >
break [n]
builtin [shell-builtin [arg ...]]
caller [expr]
case WORD in [PATTERN [| PATTERN]...] COMMANDS>
cd [-L|[-P [-e]]] [dir]
command [-pVv] command [arg ...]
--More--
history [-c] [-d offset] [n] or history -anrw>
if COMMANDS; then COMMANDS; [ elif COMMANDS; >
jobs [-lnprs] [jobspec ...] or jobs -x comman>
kill [-s sigspec | -n signum | -sigspec] pid >
let arg [arg ...]
local [option] name[=value] ...
logout [n]
mapfile [-n count] [-O origin] [-s count] [-t>
popd [-n] [+N | -N]
printf [-v var] format [arguments]
pushd [-n] [+N | -N | dir]
pwd [-LP]
read [-ers] [-a array] [-d delim] [-i text] [>
readarray [-n count] [-O origin] [-s count] [>
readonly [-aAf] [name[=value] ...] or readonl>

```

To get help concerning a given internal command, help is invoked with the given command as an argument:


```
root@debian8:~# help type
type: type [-afptP] name [name ...]
  Display information about command type.
  For each NAME, indicate how it would be interpreted if used as a
  command name.
  Options:
    -a    display all locations containing an executable named NAME;
          includes aliases, builtins, and functions, if and only if
          the '-p' option is not also used
    -f    suppress shell function lookup
    -P    force a PATH search for each NAME, even if it is an alias,
          builtin, or function, and returns the name of the disk file
          that would be executed
    -p    returns either the name of the disk file that would be executed,
          or nothing if 'type -t NAME' would not return 'file'.
    -t    output a single word which is one of 'alias', 'keyword',
          'function', 'builtin', 'file' or '', if NAME is an alias, shell
          reserved word, shell function, shell builtin, disk file, or not
          found, respectively
  Arguments:
    NAME  Command name to be interpreted.
  Exit Status:
    Returns success if all of the NAMEs are found; fails if any are not found.
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# help type
type: type [-afptP] name [name ...]
  Display information about command type.
  For each NAME, indicate how it would be interpreted if used as a
  command name.
  Options:
    -a    display all locations containing an executable named NAME;
          includes aliases, builtins, and functions, if and only if
          the '-p' option is not also used
    -f    suppress shell function lookup
```

- P force a PATH search for each NAME, even if it is an alias, builtin, or function, and returns the name of the disk file that would be executed
- p returns either the name of the disk file that would be executed, or nothing if `type -t NAME' would not return `file'.
- t output a single word which is one of `alias', `keyword', `function', `builtin', `file' or `', if NAME is an alias, shell reserved word, shell function, shell builtin, disk file, or not found, respectively

Arguments:

NAME Command name to be interpreted.

Exit Status:

Returns success if all of the NAMEs are found; fails if any are not found.

```
[root@centos7 ~]# help type
```

```
type: type [-afptP] name [name ...]
```

Display information about command type.

For each NAME, indicate how it would be interpreted if used as a command name.

Options:

- a display all locations containing an executable named NAME; includes aliases, builtins, and functions, if and only if the `-p' option is not also used
- f suppress shell function lookup
- P force a PATH search for each NAME, even if it is an alias, builtin, or function, and returns the name of the disk file that would be executed
- p returns either the name of the disk file that would be executed, or nothing if `type -t NAME' would not return `file'.
- t output a single word which is one of `alias', `keyword', `function', `builtin', `file' or `', if NAME is an alias, shell reserved word, shell function, shell builtin, disk file, or not found, respectively

Arguments:

NAME Command name to be interpreted.

Exit Status:

Returns success if all of the NAMEs are found; fails if any are not found.

typeset: typeset [-aAfFgilrtux] [-p] name[=value] ...

Set variable values and attributes.

Obsolete. See `help declare'.

SLES12SP1:~ # help type

type: type [-afptP] name [name ...]

Display information about command type.

For each NAME, indicate how it would be interpreted if used as a command name.

Options:

- a display all locations containing an executable named NAME; includes aliases, builtins, and functions, if and only if the `-p' option is not also used
- f suppress shell function lookup
- P force a PATH search for each NAME, even if it is an alias, builtin, or function, and returns the name of the disk file that would be executed
- p returns either the name of the disk file that would be executed, or nothing if `type -t NAME' would not return `file'.
- t output a single word which is one of `alias', `keyword', `function', `builtin', `file' or `', if NAME is an alias, shell reserved word, shell function, shell builtin, disk file, or not found, respectively

Arguments:

NAME Command name to be interpreted.

Exit Status:

Returns success if all of the NAMEs are found; fails if any are not found.

typeset: typeset [-aAfFgilrtux] [-p] name[=value] ...

Set variable values and attributes.

Obsolete. See `help declare'.

The man command

The **man** command is used to consult the manual of the command passed as an argument. For example **man help** under RHEL/CentOS 7 and SLES 12 produces the following output:

```
BASH_BUILTINS(1)                General Commands Manual                BASH_BUILTINS(1)

NAME
    bash, :, ., [, alias, bg, bind, break, builtin, caller, cd, command, compgen, complete, compopt, continue, declare, dirs, disown, echo, enable, eval, exec, exit, export, false, fc, fg, getopts, hash, help, history, jobs, kill, let, local, logout, mapfile, popd, printf, pushd, pwd, read, readonly, return, set, shift, shopt, source, suspend, test, times, trap, true, type, typeset, ulimit, umask, unalias, unset, wait - bash built-in commands, see bash(1)

BASH BUILTIN COMMANDS
    Unless otherwise noted, each builtin command documented in this section as accepting options preceded by - accepts -- to signify the end of the options. The :, true, false, and test builtins do not accept options and do not treat -- specially. The exit, logout, break, continue, let, and shift builtins accept and process arguments beginning with - without requiring --. Other builtins that accept arguments but are not specified as accepting options interpret arguments beginning with - as invalid options and require -- to prevent this interpretation.

    : [arguments]
        No effect; the command does nothing beyond expanding arguments and performing any specified redirections. A zero exit code is returned.

    . filename [arguments]
Manual page help(1) line 1 (press h for help or q to quit)
```

In certain cases, such as with Debian 8 and Ubuntu 16.04 LTS for the help command, the manual is not available:

```
root@debian8:~# man help
```

No manual entry for help

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# man help
No manual entry for help
```

Each manual page can contain several sections:

Section	Contents
NAME	This section is required and has a standardized format consisting of a comma-separated list of program or function names, followed by a dash, followed by a short description of the functionality the program (or function, or file) is supposed to provide. By using the makewhatis command, the name sections are inputted into the whatis database files.
SYNOPSIS	This section gives a short overview on available program options. For functions this section lists corresponding include files and the prototype so the programmer knows the type and number of arguments as well as the return type.
DESCRIPTION	This section describes how to use the command or function and what each argument does.
OPTIONS	This section gives a description of how each option affects program behaviour.
FILES	This section lists files the program or function uses.
EXAMPLE	This section gives examples of how to use the command or function.
ENVIRONMENT	This section lists all environment variables that affect the program or function and explains how they do so.
CONFORMING TO	This section lists the eventual standards that the command or function conforms to.
BUGS / TO DO	This section describes the limitations and known inconveniences of the command or function.
EXIT STATUS / RETURN VALUE	This section lists the exit status codes and their meaning.
SEE ALSO	This section provides a list of related man pages in alphabetical order.

Navigation within a manual is accomplished using the following keys:

Key	Function
Space Bar	Move forward one screen
↵ Enter	Move down one line
↑	Move up one line
↓	Move down one line
Page ↑	Move up (backwards) one half screen
Page ↓	Move down (forward) one half screen

Key	Function
Home	Move to the beginning of the manual
End	Move to the end of the manual
/	Search for the string that follows the / key. The n key then searches for the next occurrence whilst the N searches for the previous occurrence
Q	Quit the manual

A complete Linux manual is comprised of up to 9 sections:

Section	Contents
1	Executable programs or shell commands
2	System calls (functions provided by the kernel)
3	Library calls (functions within program libraries)
4	Special files (usually found in /dev)
5	File formats and conventions eg /etc/passwd
6	Games
7	Miscellaneous (including macro packages and conventions), e.g. man(7), groff(7)
8	System administration commands (usually only for root)
9	Kernel routines [Non standard]

The available section for a specific command are given by the output of the **whereis** command:

```
root@debian8:~# whereis passwd
passwd: /usr/bin/passwd /etc/passwd /usr/share/man/man1/passwd.1ssl.gz /usr/share/man/man1/passwd.1.gz
/usr/share/man/man5/passwd.5.gz
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# whereis passwd
passwd: /usr/bin/passwd /etc/passwd /usr/share/man/man5/passwd.5.gz /usr/share/man/man1/passwd.1.gz
/usr/share/man/man1/passwd.1ssl.gz
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# whereis passwd
passwd: /usr/bin/passwd /etc/passwd /usr/share/man/man1/passwd.1.gz /usr/share/man/man5/passwd.5.gz
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # whereis passwd
passwd: /usr/bin/passwd /etc/passwd /etc/passwd.YaST2save /usr/share/man/man1/passwd.1ssl.gz
/usr/share/man/man1/passwd.1.gz /usr/share/man/man5/passwd.5.gz
```

To consult a specific section of a manual, the section number must be supplied as an argument to the man command:

```
$ man 5 passwd [Enter]
```

The **-k** option of the man command searches for the string supplied as an argument within the list of available manuals:

```
root@debian8:~# man -k passwd
chpasswd (8)          - update group passwords in batch mode
chpasswd (8)          - update passwords in batch mode
exim4_passwd (5)      - Files in use by the Debian exim4 packages
exim4_passwd_client (5) - Files in use by the Debian exim4 packages
gpasswd (1)           - administer /etc/group and /etc/gshadow
grub-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 (1) - generate hashed password for GRUB
lpasswd (1)           - add, change, or delete digest passwords.
mkpasswd (1)          - Overfeatured front end to crypt(3)
pam_localuser (8)     - require users to be listed in /etc/passwd
passwd (1)            - change user password
passwd (1ssl)         - compute password hashes
passwd (5)            - the password file
update-passwd (8)     - safely update /etc/passwd, /etc/shadow and /etc/groupword
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# man -k passwd
chpasswd (8)          - update group passwords in batch mode
chpasswd (8)          - update passwords in batch mode
fgetpwent_r (3)       - get passwd file entry reentrantly
getpwent_r (3)        - get passwd file entry reentrantly
gpasswd (1)           - administer /etc/group and /etc/gshadow
grub-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 (1) - generate hashed password for GRUB
pam_localuser (8)     - require users to be listed in /etc/passwd
```

```
passwd (1)           - change user password
passwd (1ssl)        - compute password hashes
passwd (5)           - the password file
passwd2des (3)       - RFS password encryption
update-passwd (8)    - safely update /etc/passwd, /etc/shadow and /etc/group
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# man -k passwd
chpasswd (8)         - update passwords in batch mode
fgetpwent_r (3)      - get passwd file entry reentrantly
getpwent_r (3)       - get passwd file entry reentrantly
gpasswd (1)          - administer /etc/group and /etc/gshadow
grub2-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 (1) - Generate a PBKDF2 password hash.
kpasswd (1)          - change a user's Kerberos password
lpasswd (1)          - Change group or user password
lppasswd (1)         - add, change, or delete digest passwords.
pam_localuser (8)    - require users to be listed in /etc/passwd
passwd (1)           - update user's authentication tokens
sslpaswd (1ssl)      - compute password hashes
passwd (5)           - password file
passwd2des (3)       - RFS password encryption
pwhistory_helper (8) - Helper binary that transfers password hashes from passwd or shadow to ...
smbpasswd (5)        - The Samba encrypted password file
smbpasswd (8)        - change a user's SMB password
userpasswd (1)       - A graphical tool to allow users to change their passwords.
vncpasswd (1)        - change the VNC password
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # man -k passwd
chpasswd (8)         - update passwords in batch mode
Crypt::SmbHash (3pm) - Perl-only implementation of lanman and nt md4 hash functions, for use in...
fgetpwent_r (3)      - get passwd file entry reentrantly
getpwent_r (3)       - get passwd file entry reentrantly
gpasswd (1)          - administer /etc/group
grub2-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 (1) - generate hashed password for GRUB
ldappaswd (1)        - change the password of an LDAP entry
```



```
lppasswd (1)      - add, change, or delete digest passwords.
opiepasswd (1)    - Change or set a user's password for the OPIE authentication system.
pam_localuser (8) - require users to be listed in /etc/passwd
passwd (1)        - change user password
passwd (1ssl)     - compute password hashes
passwd (5)        - password file
passwd2des (3)    - RFS password encryption
saslpasswd2 (8)   - set a user's sasl password
smbpasswd (5)     - The Samba encrypted password file
smbpasswd (8)     - change a user's SMB password
vncpasswd (1)     - change the VNC password
yppasswd (1)      - change your password in the NIS database
```

The output is a list of the available manuals complete with their description. The number between parentheses indicates the manual section number.

Command Line Switches

The switches associated with the **man** command are:

```
root@debian8:~# man --help
Usage: man [OPTION...] [SECTION] PAGE...

-C, --config-file=FILE      use this user configuration file
-d, --debug                  emit debugging messages
-D, --default                reset all options to their default values
    --warnings[=WARNINGS]   enable warnings from groff

Main modes of operation:
-f, --whatis                 equivalent to whatis
-k, --apropos                equivalent to apropos
-K, --global-apropos        search for text in all pages
-l, --local-file             interpret PAGE argument(s) as local filename(s)
-w, --where, --path, --location
```

```
print physical location of man page(s)
-W, --where-cat, --location-cat
print physical location of cat file(s)

-c, --catman          used by catman to reformat out of date cat pages
-R, --recode=ENCODING output source page encoded in ENCODING

Finding manual pages:
-L, --locale=LOCALE   define the locale for this particular man search
-m, --systems=SYSTEM  use manual pages from other systems
-M, --manpath=PATH     set search path for manual pages to PATH

-S, -s, --sections=LIST use colon separated section list

-e, --extension=EXTENSION limit search to extension type EXTENSION

-i, --ignore-case      look for pages case-insensitively (default)
-I, --match-case       look for pages case-sensitively

--regex               show all pages matching regex
--wildcard             show all pages matching wildcard

--names-only          make --regex and --wildcard match page names only,
not descriptions

-a, --all              find all matching manual pages
-u, --update           force a cache consistency check

--no-subpages          don't try subpages, e.g. 'man foo bar' => 'man
foo-bar'

Controlling formatted output:
-P, --pager=PAGER      use program PAGER to display output
-r, --prompt=STRING    provide the 'less' pager with a prompt
```

```
-7, --ascii          display ASCII translation of certain latin1 chars
-E, --encoding=ENCODING  use selected output encoding
    --no-hyphenation, --nh turn off hyphenation
    --no-justification,          --nj turn off justification
-p, --preprocessor=STRING STRING indicates which preprocessors to run:
                                e - [n]eqn, p - pic, t - tbl,
g - grap, r - refer, v - vgrind

-t, --troff          use groff to format pages
-T, --troff-device[=DEVICE] use groff with selected device

-H, --html[=BROWSER] use www-browser or BROWSER to display HTML output
-X, --gxditview[=RESOLUTION] use groff and display through gxditview
                                (X11):
                                -X = -TX75, -X100 = -TX100, -X100-12 = -TX100-12
-Z, --ditroff        use groff and force it to produce ditroff

-?, --help           give this help list
    --usage          give a short usage message
-V, --version        print program version
```

Mandatory or optional arguments to long options are also mandatory or optional for any corresponding short options.

Report bugs to cjwatson@debian.org.

The apropos command

apropos searches the **whatis** database for instances of a keyword passed to the command as an argument. With no further options, the output is identical to **man -k**:

```
root@debian8:~# apropos passwd
```

```
chgpaswd (8)      - update group passwords in batch mode
chpaswd (8)       - update passwords in batch mode
exim4_paswd (5)   - Files in use by the Debian exim4 packages
exim4_paswd_client (5) - Files in use by the Debian exim4 packages
gpaswd (1)        - administer /etc/group and /etc/gshadow
grub-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 (1) - generate hashed password for GRUB
lppaswd (1)       - add, change, or delete digest passwords.
mkpasswd (1)      - Overfeatured front end to crypt(3)
pam_localuser (8) - require users to be listed in /etc/passwd
passwd (1)        - change user password
passwd (1ssl)     - compute password hashes
passwd (5)        - the password file
update-passwd (8) - safely update /etc/passwd, /etc/shadow and /etc/group
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# apropos passwd
```

```
chgpaswd (8)      - update group passwords in batch mode
chpaswd (8)       - update passwords in batch mode
fgetpwent_r (3)   - get passwd file entry reentrantly
getpwent_r (3)    - get passwd file entry reentrantly
gpaswd (1)        - administer /etc/group and /etc/gshadow
grub-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 (1) - generate hashed password for GRUB
pam_localuser (8) - require users to be listed in /etc/passwd
passwd (1)        - change user password
passwd (1ssl)     - compute password hashes
passwd (5)        - the password file
passwd2des (3)    - RFS password encryption
update-passwd (8) - safely update /etc/passwd, /etc/shadow and /etc/group
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# apropos passwd
```

```
chpaswd (8)       - update passwords in batch mode
fgetpwent_r (3)   - get passwd file entry reentrantly
getpwent_r (3)    - get passwd file entry reentrantly
gpaswd (1)        - administer /etc/group and /etc/gshadow
grub2-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 (1) - Generate a PBKDF2 password hash.
```

```
kpasswd (1)      - change a user's Kerberos password
lpasswd (1)      - Change group or user password
lppasswd (1)      - add, change, or delete digest passwords.
pam_localuser (8) - require users to be listed in /etc/passwd
passwd (1)        - update user's authentication tokens
sslpaswd (1ssl)   - compute password hashes
passwd (5)        - password file
passwd2des (3)    - RFS password encryption
pwhistory_helper (8) - Helper binary that transfers password hashes from passwd or shadow to ...
smbpasswd (5)     - The Samba encrypted password file
smbpasswd (8)     - change a user's SMB password
userpasswd (1)    - A graphical tool to allow users to change their passwords.
vncpasswd (1)     - change the VNC password
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # apropos passwd
```

```
chpasswd (8)      - update passwords in batch mode
Crypt::SmbHash (3pm) - Perl-only implementation of lanman and nt md4 hash functions, for use in...
fgetpwent_r (3)   - get passwd file entry reentrantly
getpwent_r (3)    - get passwd file entry reentrantly
gpaswd (1)        - administer /etc/group
grub2-mkpasswd-pbkdf2 (1) - generate hashed password for GRUB
ldappaswd (1)     - change the password of an LDAP entry
lppasswd (1)      - add, change, or delete digest passwords.
opiepasswd (1)    - Change or set a user's password for the OPIE authentication system.
pam_localuser (8) - require users to be listed in /etc/passwd
passwd (1)        - change user password
passwd (1ssl)     - compute password hashes
passwd (5)        - password file
passwd2des (3)    - RFS password encryption
saslpaswd2 (8)    - set a user's sasl password
smbpasswd (5)     - The Samba encrypted password file
smbpasswd (8)     - change a user's SMB password
vncpasswd (1)     - change the VNC password
yppaswd (1)       - change your password in the NIS database
```

Command Line Switches

The switches associated with the **apropos** command are:

```
root@debian8:~# apropos --help
Usage: apropos [OPTION...] KEYWORD...

-d, --debug                emit debugging messages
-v, --verbose              print verbose warning messages
-e, --exact                search each keyword for exact match
-r, --regex                interpret each keyword as a regex
-w, --wildcard             the keyword(s) contain wildcards
-a, --and                  require all keywords to match
-l, --long                 do not trim output to terminal width
-C, --config-file=FILE     use this user configuration file
-L, --locale=LOCALE        define the locale for this search
-m, --systems=SYSTEM       use manual pages from other systems
-M, --manpath=PATH         set search path for manual pages to PATH
-s, --sections=LIST, --section=LIST
                           search only these sections (colon-separated)
-?, --help                 give this help list
    --usage                give a short usage message
-V, --version              print program version
```

Mandatory or optional arguments to long options are also mandatory or optional for any corresponding short options.

The `--regex` option is enabled by default.

Report bugs to cjwatson@debian.org.

The makewhatis and whatis Commands under RHEL/CentOS 6

Each manual page has a short description available within it. These descriptions as well as the name of the manual are stored in the **whatis** database. The **whatis** database is created by **/usr/sbin/makewhatis**.

The use of **makewhatis** is extremely simple:

```
[root@centos6 ~]# makewhatis
```

The **whatis** command can now be used to identify the man sections available for the **passwd** command:

```
[root@centos6 ~]# whatis passwd
passwd          (1)  - update user's authentication tokens
passwd          (5)  - password file
passwd [sslpw]  (1ssl) - compute password hashes
```

Command Line Switches

The switches associated with the **makewhatis** command are:

```
[root@centos6 ~]# makewhatis --help
Usage: makewhatis [-s sections] [-u] [-v] [-w] [manpath] [-c [catpath]] [-o whatisdb]
This will build the whatis database for the man pages
found in manpath and the cat pages found in catpath.
-s: sections (default: 1 lp 8 2 3 3p 4 5 6 7 9 0p n l p o 1x 2x 3x 4x 5x 6x 7x 8x)
-u: update database with pages added today
-U: update database with pages added since last makewhatis run
-v: verbose
-o: location of whatis database (default: /var/cache/man/whatis)
-w: use manpath obtained from `man --path`
[manpath]: man directories (default: /usr/share/man)
```

```
[catpath]: cat directories (default: the first existing
          directory in /usr/share/man)
```

The switches associated with the **whatis** command are:

Usage: **whatis** [OPTION...] KEYWORD...

-d, --debug	emit debugging messages
-v, --verbose	print verbose warning messages
-r, --regex	interpret each keyword as a regex
-w, --wildcard	the keyword(s) contain wildcards
-l, --long	do not trim output to terminal width
-C, --config-file=FILE	use this user configuration file
-L, --locale=LOCALE	define the locale for this search
-m, --systems=SYSTEM	use manual pages from other systems
-M, --manpath=PATH	set search path for manual pages to PATH
-s, --section=SECTION	search only this section
-?, --help	give this help list
--usage	give a short usage message
-V, --version	print program version

Mandatory or optional arguments to long options are also mandatory or optional for any corresponding short options.

Report bugs to cjwatson@debian.org.

The mandb and whatis commands under RHEL/CentOS 7, Debian 6, 7 and 8, SLES 11 and 12, Ubuntu 14.04 and 16.04

Under RHEL/CentOS 7, Debian 6, 7 and 8, SLES 11 and 12, Ubuntu 14.04 and 16.04 the database is maintained by root by using the **/bin/mandb** or **/usr/bin/mandb** command.

Once again, the use of **mandb** is very simple:

```
root@debian8:~# mandb
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/ug...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/ug...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/tr...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/tr...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/el...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/el...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/ja...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/ja...
...
0 man subdirectories contained newer manual pages.
0 manual pages were added.
0 stray cats were added.
0 old database entries were purged.
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# mandb
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/lv...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/lv...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/pt_BR...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/pt_BR...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/tr...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/tr...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/ca...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/ca...
...
0 man subdirectories contained newer manual pages.
0 manual pages were added.
0 stray cats were added.
```

0 old database entries were purged.

```
[root@centos7 ~]# mandb
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man...
mandb: warning: /usr/share/man/man8/fsck.fat.8.manpage-fix.gz: ignoring bogus filename
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/ca...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/ca...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/cs...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/cs...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/da...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/da...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/de...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/de...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/en...
...
0 man subdirectories contained newer manual pages.
0 manual pages were added.
0 stray cats were added.
0 old database entries were purged.
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # mandb
mandb: warning: $MANPATH set, ignoring /etc/manpath.config
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/ca...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/ca...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/cs...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/cs...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/da...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/da...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/de...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/de...
Purging old database entries in /usr/share/man/es...
Processing manual pages under /usr/share/man/es...
...
```

```
10 man subdirectories contained newer manual pages.  
0 manual pages were added.  
0 stray cats were added.  
0 old database entries were purged.
```

Now the **whatis** command can be used to check which manual sections are available for a specific command:

```
root@debian8:~# whatis passwd  
passwd (1)          - change user password  
passwd (5)          - the password file  
passwd (1ssl)       - compute password hashes
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# whatis passwd  
passwd (1)          - change user password  
passwd (1ssl)       - compute password hashes  
passwd (5)          - the password file
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# whatis passwd  
sslpwdd (1ssl)      - compute password hashes  
passwd (1)          - update user's authentication tokens  
passwd (5)          - password file
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # whatis passwd  
passwd (1ssl)       - compute password hashes  
passwd (1)          - change user password  
passwd (5)          - password file
```

Command Line Switches

The switches associated with the **mandb** command are:

```
root@debian8:~# mandb --help
```

Usage: mandb [OPTION...] [MANPATH]

-c, --create	create dbs from scratch, rather than updating
-C, --config-file=FILE	use this user configuration file
-d, --debug	emit debugging messages
-f, --filename=FILENAME	update just the entry for this filename
-p, --no-purge	don't purge obsolete entries from the dbs
-q, --quiet	work quietly, except for 'bogus' warning
-s, --no-straycats	don't look for or add stray cats to the dbs
-t, --test	check manual pages for correctness
-u, --user-db	produce user databases only
?, --help	give this help list
--usage	give a short usage message
-V, --version	print program version

Mandatory or optional arguments to long options are also mandatory or optional for any corresponding short options.

Report bugs to cjwatson@debian.org.

The switches associated with the **whatis** command are:

```
root@debian8:~# whatis --help
```

Usage: whatis [OPTION...] KEYWORD...

-d, --debug	emit debugging messages
-v, --verbose	print verbose warning messages
-r, --regex	interpret each keyword as a regex
-w, --wildcard	the keyword(s) contain wildcards
-l, --long	do not trim output to terminal width
-C, --config-file=FILE	use this user configuration file
-L, --locale=LOCALE	define the locale for this search
-m, --systems=SYSTEM	use manual pages from other systems
-M, --manpath=PATH	set search path for manual pages to PATH

```
-s, --sections=LIST, --section=LIST
                                search only these sections (colon-separated)
-?, --help                      give this help list
--usage                        give a short usage message
-V, --version                   print program version
```

Mandatory or optional arguments to long options are also mandatory or optional for any corresponding short options.

Report bugs to cjwatson@debian.org.


The info command

In addition to the man system, information regarding programs and commands can also be found using the **info system**. Background information, tutorials, and detailed information on using the program in question are sometimes lacking in man pages and as a result the info system was created to resolve that issue.

Within the info system, multiple individual pages of information make up the entire set of info pages for each specific application. These pages of information are referred to as nodes. You can page through nodes one at a time, or you can jump to specific pages through the use of hypertext links.

To help node navigation, info pages all display a header across the top of the page. This header includes information such as the current node, next and previous nodes, and information regarding the parent node. Navigation is accomplished using the following keys :

Key	Function
n	Next node.
p	Previous node.
u	Parent node.
Space	Scroll down one page at a time.
Del	Scroll up one page at a time.
b	Return to the beginning of the current node.
Tab ↵	Select next hypertext link.
m <link text>	Performs a direct jump to the specified subnode. Pressing Tab displays all available subnodes.

Key	Function
 Enter	Follow current hypertext link. Hypertext links are designated by an asterisk * at the beginning of the link, and a colon : at the end of the link.
q	Quit the info system.

To access the top node of the info system, use the following command :

```
root@debian8:~# info
...
File: dir,      Node: Top      This is the top of the INFO tree

This (the Directory node) gives a menu of major topics.
Typing "q" exits, "?" lists all Info commands, "d" returns here,
"h" gives a primer for first-timers,
"mEmacs<Return>" visits the Emacs manual, etc.

In Emacs, you can click mouse button 2 on a menu item or cross reference
to select it.

* Menu:

Basics
* Common options: (coreutils)Common options.
* Coreutils: (coreutils).      Core GNU (file, text, shell) utilities.
* Date input formats: (coreutils)Date input formats.
* File permissions: (coreutils)File permissions.
                                Access modes.
* Finding files: (find).      Operating on files matching certain criteria.

Compression
* Gzip: (gzip).      General (de)compression of files (lzw).
-----Info: (dir)Top, 197 lines --Top-----
Welcome to Info version 5.2. Type h for help, m for menu item.
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# info
...
File: dir,      Node: Top,      This is the top of the INFO tree.

This is the Info main menu (aka directory node).
A few useful Info commands:

    'q' quits;
    '?' lists all Info commands;
    'h' starts the Info tutorial;
    'mTexinfo RET' visits the Texinfo manual, etc.

* Menu:

Basics
* Common options: (coreutils)Common options.
* Coreutils: (coreutils).      Core GNU (file, text, shell) utilities.
* Date input formats: (coreutils)Date input formats.
* Ed: (ed).                    The GNU line editor
* File permissions: (coreutils)File permissions.
                                Access modes.
* Finding files: (find).        Operating on files matching certain criteria.

C++ libraries
-----Info: (dir)Top, 254 lines --Top-----
Welcome to Info version 6.1.  Type H for help, h for tutorial.
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# info
...
File: dir      Node: Top      This is the top of the INFO tree

This (the Directory node) gives a menu of major topics.
Typing "q" exits, "?" lists all Info commands, "d" returns here,
"h" gives a primer for first-timers,
```

"mEmacs<Return>" visits the Emacs topic, etc.

In Emacs, you can click mouse button 2 on a menu item or cross reference to select it.

* Menu:

Archiving

- * Cpio: (cpio). Copy-in-copy-out archiver to tape or disk.
- * Tar: (tar). Making tape (or disk) archives.

Basics

- * Common options: (coreutils)Common options.
- * Coreutils: (coreutils). Core GNU (file, text, shell) utilities.
- * Date input formats: (coreutils)Date input formats.
- * File permissions: (coreutils)File permissions.
Access modes.

-----Info: (dir)Top, 2027 lines --Top-----
Welcome to Info version 5.1. Type h for help, m for menu item.

SLES12SP1:~ # info

...

File: dir, Node: Top This is the top of the INFO tree

This (the Directory node) gives a menu of major topics.
Typing "q" exits, "?" lists all Info commands, "d" returns here,
"h" gives a primer for first-timers,
"mEmacs<Return>" visits the Emacs manual, etc.

In Emacs, you can click mouse button 2 on a menu item or cross reference to select it.

* Menu:

Archiving

- * Cpio: (cpio). Copy-in-copy-out archiver to tape or disk.
- * Shar utilities: (sharutils). Shell archiver, uuencode/uudecode.
- * Tar: (tar). Making tape (or disk) archives.

Basics

- * Bash: (bash). The GNU Bourne-Again SHell.
 - * Common options: (coreutils)Common options.
 - * Coreutils: (coreutils). Core GNU (file, text, shell) utilities.
 - * Date input formats: (coreutils)Date input formats.
- Info: (dir)Top, 321 lines --Top-----
Welcome to Info version 4.13. Type h for help, m for menu item.

Note that the version of the info command differs from one distribution to another:

```
root@debian8:~# info -0 --version
info (GNU texinfo) 5.2
```

```
Copyright (C) 2013 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
```

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# info -0 --version
info (GNU texinfo) 6.1
```

```
Copyright (C) 2016 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
```

```
[root@centos7 ~]# info -0 --version
info (GNU texinfo) 5.1
```

```
Copyright (C) 2013 Free Software Foundation, Inc.  
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>  
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.  
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
```

```
SLES12SP1:~ # info -0 --version  
info (GNU texinfo) 4.13
```

```
Copyright (C) 2008 Free Software Foundation, Inc.  
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>  
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.  
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law.
```

Command Line Switches

The switches associated with the **info** command are:

```
root@debian8:~# info --help  
Usage: info [OPTION]... [MENU-ITEM...]
```

Read documentation in Info format.

Options:

-a, --all	use all matching manuals.
-k, --apropos=STRING	look up STRING in all indices of all manuals.
-d, --directory=DIR	add DIR to INFOPATH.
--dribble=FILE	remember user keystrokes in FILENAME.
-f, --file=MANUAL	specify Info manual to visit.
-h, --help	display this help and exit.
--index-search=STRING	go to node pointed by index entry STRING.
-n, --node=NODENAME	specify nodes in first visited Info file.
-o, --output=FILE	output selected nodes to FILE.
-R, --raw-escapes	output "raw" ANSI escapes (default).

--no-raw-escapes	output escapes as literal text.
--restore=FILE	read initial keystrokes from FILE.
-0, --show-options, --usage	go to command-line options node.
--strict-node-location	(for debugging) use Info file pointers as-is.
--subnodes	recursively output menu items.
-v, --variable VAR=VALUE	assign VALUE to Info variable VAR.
--vi-keys	use vi-like and less-like key bindings.
--version	display version information and exit.
-w, --where, --location	print physical location of Info file.
-x, --debug=NUMBER	set debugging level (-1 for all).

The first non-option argument, if present, is the menu entry to start from; it is searched for in all `dir' files along INFOPATH.

If it is not present, info merges all `dir' files and shows the result.

Any remaining arguments are treated as the names of menu items relative to the initial node visited.

For a summary of key bindings, type h within Info.

Examples:

info	show top-level dir menu
info info	show the general manual for Info readers
info info-stdn	show the manual specific to this Info program
info emacs	start at emacs node from top-level dir
info emacs buffers	start at buffers node within emacs manual
info --show-options emacs	start at node with emacs' command line options
info --subnodes -o out.txt emacs	dump entire manual to out.txt
info -f ./foo.info	show file ./foo.info, not searching dir

Email bug reports to bug-texinfo@gnu.org,
general questions and discussion to help-texinfo@gnu.org.
Texinfo home page: <http://www.gnu.org/software/texinfo/>

```
root@ubuntu1604:~# info --help
Usage: info [OPTION]... [MENU-ITEM...]
```

Read documentation in Info format.

Options:

-a, --all	use all matching manuals.
-k, --apropos=STRING	look up STRING in all indices of all manuals.
-d, --directory=DIR	add DIR to INFOPATH.
--dribble=FILE	remember user keystrokes in FILENAME.
-f, --file=MANUAL	specify Info manual to visit.
-h, --help	display this help and exit.
--index-search=STRING	go to node pointed by index entry STRING.
-n, --node=NODENAME	specify nodes in first visited Info file.
-o, --output=FILE	output selected nodes to FILE.
-R, --raw-escapes	output "raw" ANSI escapes (default).
--no-raw-escapes	output escapes as literal text.
--restore=FILE	read initial keystrokes from FILE.
-O, --show-options, --usage	go to command-line options node.
--strict-node-location	(for debugging) use Info file pointers as-is.
--subnodes	recursively output menu items.
-v, --variable VAR=VALUE	assign VALUE to Info variable VAR.
--vi-keys	use vi-like and less-like key bindings.
--version	display version information and exit.
-w, --where, --location	print physical location of Info file.
-x, --debug=NUMBER	set debugging level (-1 for all).

The first non-option argument, if present, is the menu entry to start from; it is searched for in all 'dir' files along INFOPATH.

If it is not present, info merges all 'dir' files and shows the result.

Any remaining arguments are treated as the names of menu items relative to the initial node visited.

For a summary of key bindings, type H within Info.

Examples:

info	show top-level dir menu
info info	show the general manual for Info readers
info info-stdn	show the manual specific to this Info program
info emacs	start at emacs node from top-level dir
info emacs buffers	select buffers menu entry in emacs manual
info emacs -n Files	start at Files node within emacs manual
info '(emacs)Files'	alternative way to start at Files node
info --show-options emacs	start at node with emacs' command line options
info --subnodes -o out.txt	emacs dump entire manual to out.txt
info -f ./foo.info	show file ./foo.info, not searching dir

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general questions and discussion to help-texinfo@gnu.org.
Texinfo home page: <http://www.gnu.org/software/texinfo/>

```
[root@centos7 ~]# info --help
Usage: info [OPTION]... [MENU-ITEM...]
```

Read documentation in Info format.

Options:

-k, --apropos=STRING	look up STRING in all indices of all manuals.
-d, --directory=DIR	add DIR to INFOPATH.
--dribble=FILENAME	remember user keystrokes in FILENAME.
-f, --file=FILENAME	specify Info file to visit.
-h, --help	display this help and exit.
--index-search=STRING	go to node pointed by index entry STRING.
-n, --node=NODENAME	specify nodes in first visited Info file.
-o, --output=FILENAME	output selected nodes to FILENAME.
-R, --raw-escapes	output "raw" ANSI escapes (default).
--no-raw-escapes	output escapes as literal text.

```
--restore=FILENAME      read initial keystrokes from FILENAME.
-0, --show-options, --usage go to command-line options node.
--strict-node-location  (for debugging) use Info file pointers as-is.
--subnodes              recursively output menu items.
--vi-keys               use vi-like and less-like key bindings.
--version               display version information and exit.
-w, --where, --location print physical location of Info file.
```

The first non-option argument, if present, is the menu entry to start from; it is searched for in all `dir' files along INFOPATH. If it is not present, info merges all `dir' files and shows the result. Any remaining arguments are treated as the names of menu items relative to the initial node visited.

For a summary of key bindings, type h within Info.

Examples:

```
info          show top-level dir menu
info info     show the general manual for Info readers
info info-stdn show the manual specific to this Info program
info emacs    start at emacs node from top-level dir
info emacs buffers start at buffers node within emacs manual
info --show-options emacs start at node with emacs' command line options
info --subnodes -o out.txt emacs dump entire manual to out.txt
info -f ./foo.info show file ./foo.info, not searching dir
```

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general questions and discussion to help-texinfo@gnu.org.
Texinfo home page: <http://www.gnu.org/software/texinfo/>

```
SLES12SP1:~ # info --help
Usage: info [OPTION]... [MENU-ITEM...]
```

Read documentation in Info format.

Options:

-k, --apropos=STRING	look up STRING in all indices of all manuals.
-d, --directory=DIR	add DIR to INFOPATH.
--dribble=FILENAME	remember user keystrokes in FILENAME.
-f, --file=FILENAME	specify Info file to visit.
-h, --help	display this help and exit.
--index-search=STRING	go to node pointed by index entry STRING.
-n, --node=NODENAME	specify nodes in first visited Info file.
-o, --output=FILENAME	output selected nodes to FILENAME.
-R, --raw-escapes	output "raw" ANSI escapes (default).
--no-raw-escapes	output escapes as literal text.
--restore=FILENAME	read initial keystrokes from FILENAME.
-O, --show-options, --usage	go to command-line options node.
--subnodes	recursively output menu items.
--vi-keys	use vi-like and less-like key bindings.
--version	display version information and exit.
-w, --where, --location	print physical location of Info file.

The first non-option argument, if present, is the menu entry to start from; it is searched for in all `dir' files along INFOPATH.

If it is not present, info merges all `dir' files and shows the result.

Any remaining arguments are treated as the names of menu items relative to the initial node visited.

For a summary of key bindings, type h within Info.

Examples:

info	show top-level dir menu
info info	show the general manual for Info readers
info info-stdn	show the manual specific to this Info program
info emacs	start at emacs node from top-level dir
info emacs buffers	start at buffers node within emacs manual
info --show-options emacs	start at node with emacs' command line options
info --subnodes -o out.txt emacs	dump entire manual to out.txt

```
info -f ./foo.info      show file ./foo.info, not searching dir
```

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