Makeinfo

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1 What is makeinfo?

This file documents the use of the `makeinfo` program, versions 1.51 and later. It is an extract from the *Texinfo* manual.

`makeinfo` is a program for converting *Texinfo* files into *Info* files. Texinfo is a documentation system that uses a single source file to produce both on-line information and printed output.

You can read the on-line information using Info; type `info` to learn about Info. See the *Texinfo* manual, to learn about the Texinfo documentation system.

1.1 Controlling Paragraph Formats

In general, `makeinfo` *fills* the paragraphs that it outputs to an Info file. Filling is the process of breaking and connecting lines so that lines are the same length as or shorter than the number specified as the fill column. Lines are broken between words. With `makeinfo`, you can control:

- The width of each paragraph (the *fill-column*).
- The amount of indentation that the first line of each paragraph receives (the *paragraph-indentation*).

1.2 Command Line Options

The following command line options are available for `makeinfo`.

`-D` *var*
: Cause *var* to be defined. This is equivalent to `@set` *var* in the Texinfo file.

`--error-limit` *limit*
: Set the maximum number of errors that `makeinfo` will report before exiting (on the assumption that continuing would be useless). The default number of errors that can be reported before `makeinfo` gives up is 100.

`--fill-column` *width*
: Specify the maximum number of columns in a line; this is the right-hand edge of a line. Paragraphs that are filled will be filled to this width. The default value for `fill-column` is 72.

`--footnote-style` *style*
: Set the footnote style to *style*, either '`end`' for the end node style or '`separate`' for the separate node style. The value set by this option overrides the value set in a Texinfo file by an `@footnotestyle` command. When the footnote style is '`separate`', `makeinfo` makes a new node containing the footnotes found in the current node. When the footnote style is '`end`', `makeinfo` places the footnote references at the end of the current node.

`-I` *dir*
: Add `dir` to the directory search list for finding files that are included using the `@include` command. By default, `makeinfo` searches only the current directory.

`--no-headers`
: Do not include menus or node lines in the output. This results in an ASCII file that you cannot read in Info since it does not contain the requisite nodes or menus; but you can print such a file in a single, typewriter-like font and produce acceptable output.

`--no-split`
: Suppress the splitting stage of `makeinfo`. Normally, large output files (where the size is greater than 70k bytes) are split into smaller subfiles, each one approximately 50k bytes. If you specify '`--no-split`', `makeinfo` will not split up the output file.

`--no-pointer-validate`
`--no-validate`
: Suppress the pointer-validation phase of `makeinfo`. Normally, after a Texinfo file is processed, some consistency checks are made to ensure that cross references can be resolved, etc. See Section 1.3 [Pointer Validation], page 3.

`--no-warn`
: Suppress the output of warning messages. This does *not* suppress the output of error messages, only warnings. You might want this if the file you are creating has examples of Texinfo cross references within it, and the nodes that are referenced do not actually exist.

`--no-number-footnotes`
: Supress automatic footnote numbering. By default, `makeinfo` numbers each footnote sequentially in a single node, resetting the current footnote number to 1 at the start of each node.

`--output` *file*
`-o` *file*
: Specify that the output should be directed to *file* and not to the file name specified in the `@setfilename` command found in the Texinfo source. *file* can be the special token '`-`', which specifies standard output.

`--paragraph-indent` *indent*
: Set the paragraph indentation style to *indent*. The value set by this option overrides the value set in a Texinfo file by an `@paragraphindent` command. The value of *indent* is interpreted as follows:
  - If the value of *indent* is '`asis`', do not change the existing indentation at the starts of paragraphs.
  - If the value of *indent* is zero, delete any existing indentation.
  - If the value of *indent* is greater than zero, indent each paragraph by that number of spaces.

`--reference-limit` *limit*
: Set the value of the number of references to a node that `makeinfo` will make without reporting a warning. If a node has more than this number of references in it, `makeinfo` will make the references but also report a warning.

`-U` *var*
: Cause *var* to be undefined. This is equivalent to `@clear` *var* in the Texinfo file.

`--verbose`
: Cause `makeinfo` to display messages saying what it is doing. Normally, `makeinfo` only outputs messages if there are errors or warnings.

`--version`
: Report the version number of this copy of `makeinfo`.

1.3 Pointer Validation

If you do not suppress pointer-validation (by using the '`--no-pointer-validation`' option), `makeinfo` will check the validity of the final Info file. Mostly, this means ensuring that nodes you have referenced really exist. Here is a complete list of what is checked:

1. If a 'Next', 'Previous', or 'Up' node reference is a reference to a node in the current file and is not an external reference such as to `(dir)`, then the referenced node must exist.
2. In every node, if the 'Previous' node is different from the 'Up' node, then the 'Previous' node must also be pointed to by a 'Next' node.
3. Every node except the 'Top' node must have an 'Up' pointer.
4. The node referenced by an 'Up' pointer must contain a reference to the current node in some manner other than through a 'Next' reference. This includes menu entries and cross references.
5. If the 'Next' reference of a node is not the same as the 'Next' reference of the 'Up' reference, then the node referenced by the 'Next' pointer must have a 'Previous' pointer that points back to the current node. This rule allows the last node in a section to point to the first node of the next chapter.