NAME

a2ps – formats an ascii file for printing in a postscript printer; very nice and compact format for program listings.

SYNOPSIS

a2ps [-b] [-f] [-i] [-n] [-n{bfinrv}] [-r] [-v] [**file1**] [**file2**] [...]

DESCRIPTION

a2ps formats files "file1", "file2", ... for printing in a postscript printer; if no file is given, **a2ps** reads from the standard input. Format used is very nice and compact: two pages on each physical page, borders surrounding pages, headers with useful information (page number, printing date, file name), line numbering, etc. Very useful to archive listings of programs.

Options offered by **a2ps** are the following:

-b Force printing binary files. By default, binary files printing is stopped before second page (see -nb option).

-f Fold lines too large to be printed inside the borders (default option). Max size is actually 86 characters.

-i Interpret TAB, BS and FF characters (default option). TAB is replaced by enough spaces to reach next tab stop while BS and FF have their meanings.

-n Output lines are preceded by line numbers, numbered sequentially from 1 (default option).

-nb Don’t print binary files. To detect such a file we make use of a very simple heuristic: if the first page of the file contains at less 75% of non-printing characters, it’s a binary file. First page is always printed.

-nf Cut lines too large (don’t fold).

-ni Don’t interpret TAB, BS and FF characters. They will be printed according to -v option.

-nn Don’t number output lines.

-nr Sheet numbering (see -r option) must be continue for all files (don’t reset on new file).

-nv Replace non-printing characters by a space.

-r Reset sheet numbering for each new file (default option). Sheet numbering is used to number physical pages (sheets printed) and is placed in the bottom of each physical page. It differs from page numbering: logical pages of file been printed.

-v Replace non-printing characters so that they are lisible and easy to identify (default option). Control characters (ascii codes lower than 0x20) are printed like ^X for ctrl-x; the delete character (hex 0x3f) is printed as ^?. Non ascii characters (with the high bit set) are printed as M- (for meta) followed by the character of the low 7 bits. TAB, BS and FF are handled like non-printing characters if -ni option was taked.

USAGE

a2ps sends formatted file to standard output. User could redirect this output to a file or pipe it directly to a print command, like lpr in UNIX:

```
a2ps file1 > file2

a2ps file1 | lpr -l
```

Don’t forget **-l** option in last line, if you want that **lpr** interprets your postscript program.

This filter must be used only with text files. Avoid specially output from TeX, troff or any other text formatter.

SEE ALSO

pprps(1L) tgrind(1) lpr(1)

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