

Heirloom Documentation Tools: Quickstart Guide

So you want to explore Heirloom *troff* and know *troff* to some extent since you have used *groff* or traditional *troff* before? Getting started is easy then:

- ✎ Heirloom *troff* supports names with more than two characters for requests, strings, number registers, and fonts like *groff* does. However, it operates in a compatibility mode by default and needs to be explicitly told to activate extensions. Thus unless you are processing legacy documents, the first line in a Heirloom *troff* document should read

```
.do xflag 3
```

- ✎ *troff* produces an intermediate language that needs further processing in order to produce PostScript output. With preprocessors and *-mm* macros, a typical command line is

```
pic input.tr | tbl | eqn | troff -mm | dpost > output.ps
```

It is most convenient to have the *make* utility let this execute for you. See the source directory for this quickstart guide (“doc/quickstart” in the distribution) for an example.

- ✎ You can adapt *troff* to local language conventions by setting the paper size, the hyphenation language, and the input locale. For example, a document in German that is using UTF-8 as input character encoding would usually configure these as

```
.mediasize a4  
.hylang de_DE  
.lc_ctype de_DE.utf8
```

- ✎ Fonts are “plug-and-play”: *troff* can directly access PostScript Type 1, TrueType, and OpenType fonts without any need for conversion. The font of this document is mounted by

```
.fp 1 R MyriadPro-Regular otf
```

The document *Font Handling in Troff With PostScript Devices* explains additional features.

- ✎ Further extensions you might like to explore are paragraph-based justification, “microtypography”, hanging punctuation, PDF bookmarks and links, floating-point registers, and local variables per macro instance. These are documented in *Justification in Heirloom Troff* and in the *Nroff/Troff User’s Manual*.

- ✎ Heirloom *troff* provides a *groff* compatibility mode and macro set. A command line like

```
gtbl input.tr | troff -mg /usr/share/groff/current/tmac/s.tmac - | dpost > output.ps
```

lets you process *groff* macro sets and preprocessor output.