



Heirloom Documentation Tools

Troff Demonstration Page



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The *troff* text processor from the Heirloom Documentation Tools project is a variant of the Unix application originally written by JOSEPH F. OSSANNA and BRIAN W. KERNIGHAN. It has been derived from source code provided by the OpenSolaris project. Amongst many enhancements, Heirloom *troff* provides extended capabilities to work with PostScript fonts:

- PostScript Type 1 and OpenType fonts can be used as supplied by their vendor without any need for conversion; *troff* can access font metrics directly in the AFM or OpenType files, and the *dpost* post-processor can embed glyph data from PFB or OpenType files into the PostScript output it generates.
- With both Type 1 “expert” and OpenType fonts, *troff* can be configured such that it sets extra characters transparently in alternation with base characters to produce extra ligatures, as in the words “effective,” “office,” “offline,” SMALL CAPITALS, or the old-style numerals 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 without the need to type escape sequences for individual characters.
- Pairwise kerning and letter space tracking are supported; the page title provides an example for the former, and the latter is used for the SMALL CAPITALS, and, at a minor rate, to adjust the regular font of this document.
- Hanging characters can be used to achieve better visual alignment of commas, hyphens, &c. to the page margins.

Heirloom *troff* is free software; its C source code can be obtained at no charge from <<http://heirloom.sourceforge.net/doctools.html>>. It runs on a wide variety of Unix systems.