NAME

groff_omit – demarcate non-printing meta-data in groff input

DESCRIPTION

groff_omit is an auxiliary **groff**(7) macro package, which is intended for use when a mechanism is required for identification of embedded meta-data, within **groff**(7) input, while excluding it from **groff**(1) output, yet facilitating its extraction for use in other contexts. It defines the **OMIT** macro, which may be used by any client macro package, or document, to generate pairs of macro definitions, such as the **CS**, and **CE** macro pair generated by **groff_mspdf**(7), and used by **pdfroff**(1), to identify meta-data, within any **groff**(7) input data stream, whence it will be ignored during normal **groff**(1) processing, but will be available for extraction, and inclusion, by **pdfroff**(1), while processing a nominated style-sheet for the purpose of formatting document front-matter.

The **OMIT** macro may be used to generate arbitrarily named macro pairs, each of which will exhibit the same behaviour as **groff_mspdf**(7)'s **CS** and **CE** pair. Within each such generated macro pair, the macro which corresponds to **CS** — and **CS** itself, of course — records its own name, as a meta-data block initiator, after which it performs the equivalent of the **groff**(7)

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.ig CE
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request, (substituting the corresponding macro of the pair for **CE**), thus causing **groff**(1) to ignore the demarcated input data block.

When the meta-data block termination macro, which corresponds to **groff_mspdf**(7)'s **CE** macro, is encountered, it checks that there is a record of an active meta-data block, initiated by its corresponding initiator macro, and then deletes the initiation record. If no such initiation record exists, a diagnostic message is displayed, reporting this as an error.

USAGE

The **groff_omit** macros are normally loaded by another, dependent client macro package, using a **groff**(7) request of the form:

.mso omit.tmac

To designate the client macro package as the origin for any associated diagnostic messages, the loading request may be qualified, for example, as when loaded by the **groff_mspdf**(7) package, to designate "*spdf.tmac*" as the message origin, and then generate the **CS** and **CE** macro pair:

.ds OMIT.SETUP –client *spdf.tmac*
.mso omit.tmac
.OMIT CS CE

More generally, specification of the **OMIT.SETUP** string is optional; if it *is* specified, its definition *must* be placed *before* the *omit.tmac* file is loaded, and it must conform to the syntax:

.ds OMIT.SETUP [**–client** <*message-source*>] [[**–replace** <*diagnostic-macro-name*>] . . .]

specifying the optional initialization arguments:

–client <*message-source*>
: Designates <*message-source*> as the effective origin of *all* messages which are displayed by the **OMIT** API's diagnostic macro; if this option is not specified, <*message-source*> is assigned a default value of "*omit.tmac*".

–replace <*diagnostic-macro-name*>
: Specifies that the **OMIT** API's diagnostic macro should be used, in place of the original diagnostic macro named by <*diagnostic-macro-name*>; this option may be repeated, as many times as may be necessary, to replace any number of other diagnostic macros.

Following initialization of the **OMIT** API, as described above, the **OMIT** macro may be called, at any appropriate time, to generate arbitrarily named meta-data demarcating macro pairs, in accordance with the generalized syntactic form:

.OMIT <*start-macro-name*> <*end-macro-name*>

Given that neither of the macros designated by <*start-macro-name*>, nor <*end-macro-name*>, has any capability for interpretation of arguments, the general format for the use of any macro pair, generated by such use of the **OMIT** macro, is:

.<*start-macro-name*>
any block of document meta-data, or other arbitrary content,
which is not to be interpreted during normal **groff**(1) *processing,*
but which should otherwise be explicitly identifiable;
this data block ends on invocation of …
.<*end-macro-name*>

Any such block of data may then extracted, for use in a context *other than* normal **groff**(1) processing, for example, by directing a copy of the **groff**(1) input data stream through a filter such as:

sed −n '/^\. *<*start-macro-name***>/,/^\. *<***end-macro-name***>/***p***'**

and processing the resultant output, in whatever manner may be appropriate.

CONTROL VARIABLES

The **groff_omit** package interprets *one* **groff**(7) string variable, namely **OMIT.SETUP**; when this is defined *before* the *omit.tmac* file is loaded, its value is interpreted as a specification of the arguments to be passed to the **OMIT** API initialization logic; if undefined, this initialization logic behaves as if passed a default value of "**−client** *omit.tmac*". The **groff_mspdf**(7) macro package uses this facility, to insinuate its own name, "*spdf.tmac*", as the effective source of messages originating from within itself, **groff_omit**, *and* **groff_ms**(7).

FILES

/usr/local/share/groff/site-tmac/omit.tmac
Implements the **OMIT** macro, its associated API initialization logic, and diagnostic macro.

AUTHORS

The **groff_omit** macros are provided as a constituent of the *groff-pdfmark* package, which was written by Keith Marshall <keith@address.hidden>; this is maintained, independently of *GNU roff*, at Keith's *groff-pdfmark* project hosting web-site <https://savannah.nongnu.org/projects/groff-pdfmark/>, whence it is also distributed, and the latest version may *always* be obtained.

SEE ALSO

groff(1), **pdfroff**(1), **groff**(7), **groff_ms**(7), **groff_mspdf**(7)

More comprehensive documentation, on the use of the *groff-pdfmark* macro suite may be found, in PDF format, in the reference guide "*Portable Document Format Publishing with GNU Troff*", which has also been written by Keith Marshall; the most recently published version of this guide may be read online, by following the appropriate document reference link on the *groff-pdfmark* project hosting web-site <https://savannah.nongnu.org/projects/groff-pdfmark/>, whence a copy may also be downloaded.