

Contrast

compare files token by token

Reference Manual

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This document describes Contrast version 0
and was prepared 20 May 2012.

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	The README file	1
	Release Notes	2
	How to build Contrast	3
contrast(1)	compare files token by token	6
contrast_license(1)	GNU General Public License	7
contrast-reformat(1)	copy formating from one file to another	12

Table of Contents(Contrast)

Table of Contents(Contrast)

contrast-reformat(1)	12	contrast-reformat - copy formating from one file to another
contrast(1)	6	contrast - compare files token by token
contrast(1)	6	contrast - compare files token by token
contrast-reformat(1)	12	contrast-reformat - copy formating from one file to another
contrast-reformat(1)	12	contrast-reformat - copy formating from one file to another
contrast-reformat(1)	12	contrast-reformat - compare files token by token
contrast-reformat(1)	12	contrast-reformat - copy formating from one file to another
contrast-reformat(1)	12	contrast-reformat - copy formating from one file to another
contrast-reformat(1)	12	contrast-reformat - copy formating from one file to another
contrast-reformat(1)	12	contrast-reformat - copy formating from one file to another
contrast-reformat(1)	12	contrast-reformat - copy formating from one file to another
contrast(1)	6	contrast - compare files token by token
contrast(1)	6	contrast - compare files token by token

NAME

contrast – compare files token by token

DESCRIPTION

The *contrast* package is a collection of tools for comparing files line by line.

ARCHIVE SITE

The latest version of *Contrast* is available on the Web from:

URL:	http://contrast.sourceforge.net/
File:	contrast-0.README # Description, from the tar file
File:	contrast-0.lsm # Description, LSM format
File:	contrast-0.tar.gz # the complete source
File:	contrast-0.pdf # Reference Manual

BUILDING CONTRAST

Full instructions for building *Contrast* may be found in the *BUILDING* file included in this distribution.

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Contrast version 0

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RELEASE NOTES

This section details the various features and bug fixes of the various releases.

Version 0.1 (2010-Sep-25)

- the code now uses libexplain to report errors.
<http://libexplain.sourceforge.net/>
- There is now a link to the PPA on the web site, as a source of pre-built Ubuntu packages.
- The License has been updated to GPLv3

Version 0.0 (2006-Nov-14)

First public release.

NAME

How to build Contrast

BEFORE YOU START

There are a few pieces of software you may want to fetch and install before you proceed with your installation of Contrast.

gtkmm 3.0

The C++ interface for the popular GUI library GTK+. Don't build this yourself, it hurts. Instead install the *gtkmm-3.0-dev* or *gtkmm-3.0-devel* package from your distro.
<http://www.gtkmm.org/>

libexplain

The error messages are produced via libexplain.
<http://libexplain.sourceforge.net/>

GNU Groff

The documentation for the *Contrast* package was prepared using the GNU Groff package (version 1.14 or later). This distribution includes full documentation, which may be processed into PostScript or DVI files at install time – if GNU Groff has been installed.

SITE CONFIGURATION

The **contrast** package is configured using the *configure* program included in this distribution.

The *configure* shell script attempts to guess correct values for various system-dependent variables used during compilation, and creates the *Makefile* and *lib/config.h* files. It also creates a shell script *config.status* that you can run in the future to recreate the current configuration.

Normally, you just *cd* to the directory containing *contrast*'s source code and then type

```
% ./configure
...lots of output...
%
```

Running *configure* takes a minute or two. While it is running, it prints some messages that tell what it is doing. If you don't want to see the messages, run *configure* using the quiet option; for example,

```
% ./configure --quiet
%
```

To compile the **contrast** package in a different directory from the one containing the source code, you must use a version of *make* that supports the *VPATH* variable, such as *GNU make*. Change directory to the directory where you want the object files and executables to go and run the *configure* script. The *configure* script automatically checks for the source code in the directory that *configure* is in and in *..* (the parent directory). If for some reason *configure* is not in the source code directory that you are configuring, then it will report that it can't find the source code. In that case, run *configure* with the option *--srcdir=DIR*, where *DIR* is the directory that contains the source code.

By default, *configure* will arrange for the *make install* command to install the **contrast** package's files in */usr/local/bin*, and */usr/local/man*. There are options which allow you to control the placement of these files.

--prefix=PATH

This specifies the path prefix to be used in the installation. Defaults to */usr/local* unless otherwise specified.

--exec-prefix=PATH

You can specify separate installation prefixes for architecture-specific files files. Defaults to *{prefix}* unless otherwise specified.

--bindir=PATH

This directory contains executable programs. On a network, this directory may be shared between machines with identical hardware and operating systems; it may be mounted read-only. Defaults to *{exec_prefix}/bin* unless otherwise specified.

```
--mandir=PATH
```

This directory contains the on-line manual entries. On a network, this directory may be shared between all machines; it may be mounted read-only. Defaults to $\${prefix}/man$ unless otherwise specified.

The *configure* script ignores most other arguments that you give it; use the `--help` option for a complete list.

On systems that require unusual options for compilation or linking that the *contrast* package's *configure* script does not know about, you can give *configure* initial values for variables by setting them in the environment. In Bourne-compatible shells, you can do that on the command line like this:

```
$ CXX='g++ -traditional' LIBS=-lposix ./configure
...lots of output...
$
```

Here are the *make* variables that you might want to override with environment variables when running *configure*.

Variable: CXX

C++ compiler program. The default is *c++*.

Variable: CPPFLAGS

Preprocessor flags, commonly defines and include search paths. Defaults to empty. It is common to use `CPPFLAGS=-I/usr/local/include` to access other installed packages.

Variable: INSTALL

Program to use to install files. The default is *install* if you have it, *cp* otherwise.

Variable: LIBS

Libraries to link with, in the form `-lfoo -lbar`. The *configure* script will append to this, rather than replace it. It is common to use `LIBS=-L/usr/local/lib` to access other installed packages.

If you need to do unusual things to compile the package, the author encourages you to figure out how *configure* could check whether to do them, and mail diffs or instructions to the author so that they can be included in the next release.

BUILDING CONTRAST

All you should need to do is use the

```
% make
...lots of output...
%
```

command and wait. When this finishes you should see a directory called *bin* containing several programs.

If you have GNU Groff installed, the build will also create a *etc/reference.ps* file. This contains the README file, this BUILDING file, and all of the man pages.

You can remove the program binaries and object files from the source directory by using the

```
% make clean
...lots of output...
%
```

command. To remove all of the above files, and also remove the *Makefile* and *lib/config.h* and *config.status* files, use the

```
% make distclean
...lots of output...
%
```

command.

The file *etc/configure.in* is used to create *configure* by a GNU program called *autoconf*. You only need to know this if you want to regenerate *configure* using a newer version of *autoconf*.

TESTING CONTRAST

The *contrast* package comes with a test suite. To run this test suite, use the command

```
% make sure
...lots of output...
Passed All Tests
%
```

The tests take a few seconds each, with a few very fast, and a couple very slow, but it varies greatly depending on your CPU.

If all went well, the message

```
Passed All Tests
```

should appear at the end of the make.

INSTALLING CONTRAST

As explained in the *SITE CONFIGURATION* section, above, the *contrast* package is installed under the */usr/local* tree by default. Use the `--prefix=PATH` option to *configure* if you want some other path. More specific installation locations are assignable, use the `--help` option to *configure* for details.

All that is required to install the *contrast* package is to use the

```
% make install
...lots of output...
%
```

command. Control of the directories used may be found in the first few lines of the *Makefile* file and the other files written by the *configure* script; it is best to reconfigure using the *configure* script, rather than attempting to do this by hand.

GETTING HELP

If you need assistance with the *contrast* package, please do not hesitate to contact the author at

```
Peter Miller <pmiller@opensource.org.au>
```

Any and all feedback is welcome.

When reporting problems, please include the version number given by the

```
% contrast -V
contrast version 0.D002
...warranty disclaimer...
%
```

command. Please do not send this example; run the program for the exact version number.

COPYRIGHT

```
contrast version 0
```

```
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```

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```

NAME

contrast – compare files token by token

SYNOPSIS

contrast [*-option...*] *left-file right-file*

contrast **-l**

contrast **-L**

contrast **-V**

DESCRIPTION

The contrast command is used to compare files token by token. The user is presented with an X11 GUI to see the changes.

OPTIONS

The contrast command understands the following options:

-a *name* Select the comparison algorithm to be used.

-l List the available comparison algorithms.

-L List the available tokenizer styles.

-t *name* Select the tokenizer to be used. If none is specified, and the file name indicates it is a C source file (or a similar language), a C tokenizer will be used; otherwise a generic tokenizer will be used.

-V Print the version of *contrast* and exit.

EXIT STATUS

The contrast command exits with status 1 on any error. The contrast command only exits with status 0 if there are no errors.

SEE ALSO

diff(1) compare files line by line

contrast-reformat(1)

reformat one file using the white space of another

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contrast version 0

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^/* WWW: <http://miller.emu.id.au/pmiller/>

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Version 2, June 1991

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one line to give the program's name and a brief idea of what it does.

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signature of Ty Coon, 1 April 1989

Ty Coon, President of Vice

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NAME

contrast-reformat – copy formatting from one file to another

SYNOPSIS

contrast-reformat [*option*] *left-file* *right-file*

contrast-reformat -V

DESCRIPTION

The *contrast-reformat* command is used to copy the formatting (the white space between the tokens) from the *left-file* to the *right-file*, and print the result on the standard output. Only where the *right-file* contains inserted text will the white space from the *right-file* be used.

You know how it is, you want to fix a bug in some open source code, but you have to run it through *indent*(1) first, just to keep your sanity. When it comes time to send a patch to the maintainer, you can't use *diff*(1) because *indent*(1) changed every line.

The *contrast-reformat*(1) program is used to apply one file's format to a second file. So, once you have the bug fixed, you can re-apply the original file's insane formatting (the white space between the tokens) to your bug fixed version. Now you can use regular *diff*(1) to build the patch.

Full credit for this brilliant idea belongs to Erik de Castro Lopo, <http://www.mega-nerd.com/>

OPTIONS

The *contrast-reformat* command understands the following options:

-V Print the version of *contrast-reformat* and exit.

EXIT STATUS

The *contrast-reformat* command exits with status 1 on any error. The *contrast-reformat* command only exits with status 0 if there are no errors.

SEE ALSO

contrast(1)

compare files token by token

diff(1) compare files line by line

indent(1)

changes the appearance of a C program by inserting or deleting whitespace

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contrast-reformat version 0

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