
Subject: Has IDLDE screwed up my man pages?
Posted by [profxtjb](#) on Sun, 12 Oct 2003 12:13:52 GMT
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Newcomer to IDL, running idlde on Macintosh G4 OS 10.2.4. Also not a Unix freak.

Recently I was messing with preferences in idlde and I think I may have messed up the path settings in my system. IDL works fine, but when I slip out to the xterm screen or over to Terminal, my man pages don't work! Here is the error message, e.g., after entering 'man ls'

```
/usr/bin/groff: troff: Illegal instruction  
/usr/bin/tbl:/usr/share/man/man1/ls.1:368:fatal error: output error
```

Here is the system variable \$path,
PATH=/usr/bin:/bin:/usr/sbin:/sbin:/Users/me:/usr/X11R6/bin

Here is manpath output
/usr/share/man:/usr/X11R6/man

I have the paths preference set to <IDL_DEFAULT>.

Or is this a problem because I tried using online help from the idlde command window?

RSVP and thanks.

==thomas==

Subject: Re: Has IDLDE screwed up my man pages?
Posted by [condor](#) on Thu, 16 Oct 2003 23:54:13 GMT
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profxtjb@earthlink.net (Thomas Brueckner) wrote in message news:<52e94d00.0310120413.52fd70a2@posting.google.com>...
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I know nothing about macs of BSD, but in unixy terms this looks as if groff is passed troff as a command. I would start looking in /etc/man.config where TROFF should be defined. On my own system that looks like this:

```
TROFF      /usr/bin/groff -Tps -mandoc
```

I could also imagine that "messaging with preferences" may have involved setting locale preferences or a switch from ascii to utf-8 or latin1 or some such incompatible thing that is certainly bound to confuse groff.

Another thing to try might be running "man" on a command you've never man'ed before: maybe the formatted files in the "cat" directories got messed up somehow and reformatting from scratch works just fine.

I would suggest "man man", but of course your "man" doesn't work %) But you could 'locate' it and nroff it by hand:

```
[16:50] Bird [nest] > locate man.1
/usr/share/man/man1/man.1.gz
[16:50] Bird [nest] > cd /usr/share/man/man1
[16:50] Bird [nest] > gunzip man.1.gz -c | nroff -man | more
```

Another thing that I don't know about OSX/BSD is whether it has the 'info' facility. If yes, then it seems that 'info ls' (or even just 'info') is much better than 'man ls' anyways...
