

man2html

Introduction

man2html can generate *on the fly* HTML pages from *man* documentation. This makes it a useful addition to [asciidoc](#) based notes. ¹⁾ One of the advantages it offers is that when *man* pages are converted to HTML they become navigable through hyperlinks. A similar script exists for *info*, [info2www](#).

man2html can be used from the command line, for example, to read in *lynx* the html-formatted *man* page of *grep*:

```
$ zcat $(man --path 1 grep) | man2html -l | lynx -stdin
```

It is more useful, however, to setup a *cgi-bin* infrastructure which will allow the *on the fly* operation, see [man2html\(1\)](#).

http

This is the most versatile mode, as it works from any browser.

```
# mkdir /var/www/cgi-bin/man
```

```
# $EDITOR /etc/lynx.cfg
```

```
# NB: <TAB> must be a real tab.  
TRUSTED_LYNXCGI:<TAB>/var/www/cgi-bin/man/
```

```
# $EDITOR /var/www/cgi-bin/man/man2html
```

```
#!/bin/bash  
# $1 is the man section  
# $2 is the command name  
zcat "$(man --path $1 $2)" | /usr/bin/man2html
```

```
# chmod 0755 /var/www/cgi-bin/man/man2html
```

```
# /etc/rc.d/rc.httpd start
```

See [asciidoc Mini HOWTO](#) for how to use in an *asciidoc* file.



The steps are intended for *localhost*, or at most a LAN. *cgi-bin* may need some hardening for a public web server.

lynxcgi

This works only from *lynx*. Make sure *lynx* is compiled with enabled `cgi-bin`, the default for Slackware.

```
$ mkdir -p /home/httpd/cgi-bin/man
```

```
$ $EDITOR /etc/lynx.cfg
```

```
# NB: <TAB> must be a real tab.  
TRUSTED_LYNXCgi:<TAB>/home/httpd/cgi-bin/man/
```

```
$ $EDITOR /home/httpd/cgi-bin/man/man2html
```

```
#!/bin/bash  
# $1 is the man section  
# $2 is the command name  
zcat "$(man --path $1 $2)" | /usr/bin/man2html -l
```

```
$ chmod 0755 /home/httpd/cgi-bin/man/man2html
```

A link in an *asciidoc* file for *grep* will be:

```
lynxcgi:/home/httpd/cgi-bin/man/man2html?1+grep[grep\(1\)]
```

Sources

* Originally written by [pdi](#) * Contributions by [markand](#)

[howtos, man2html](#)

¹⁾

The HTML from *man2html* is formatted differently from that of *asciidoc*, and a possible, but heavy-handed, solution might be the use of [pandoc](#), available from Slackbuilds.org.

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