# 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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https://docs.slackware.com/ - **SlackDocs**

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