

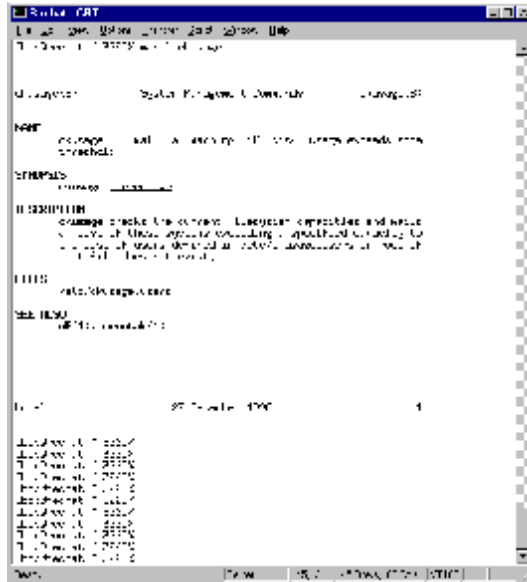
Adding Online Documentation

Introduction

Documentation is one of those tasks that everyone knows is important but that no-one wants to do.

System administrators often add new applications and scripts to their systems. It is important that they adequately document what they do.

The most traditional Unix documentation tool is the 'man' command.



This exercise will show you how to create and install the 'man'-style manual page describing the ckusage shell script (shown above) that you made in an earlier exercise.

See Also

man (1), whatis (1), mkdir (1), chown (1), chmod (1), cp (1)

Creating A Manual Page

A man page is simply a text document containing formatting instructions.

Using your preferred text editor, create the file ckusage.1 (note that the file suffix is an 'ell' [for 'local'], not a 'one'. If in doubt, assume 'ell'...). The best place to create this file is in the \$HOME/ckusage directory that you created when you originally created the ckusage script.

```
.TH ckusage L "27 December 1998" "Local" "System Management Commands"
.SH NAME
ckusage \- mail a warning if disk usage exceeds some threshold
.SH SYNOPSIS
.B ckusage
.I percentage
.SH DESCRIPTION
.B ckusage
checks the current filesystem capacities and mails a list of those
systems exceeding a specified capacity to the list of users defined in
.I /etc/ckusage.users
or root if that file does not exist.
.SH FILES
/etc/ckusage.users
.SH "SEE ALSO"
.BR df (1),
.BR crontab (1)
```

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Viewing The Page During Development

```
% man ./ckusage.1
```

Installing The Page

As root, you should execute the following commands to install the manual page you just created:

```
# mkdir /usr/local/man/man1
# chown root.root /usr/local/man/man1
# chmod 755 /usr/local/man/man1
# cp your_home_directory/ckusage/ckusage.1 /usr/local/man/man1/
```

You will now be able to say:

```
% man 1 ckusage
```

and see the page that you created and installed.

At the moment, however, the command:

```
% whatis ckusage
```

will fail.

Updating The Whatis Database

As root run the (undocumented on Linux!) command:

```
# /usr/sbin/makewhatis /usr/local/man
```

You will now be able to say:

```
% whatis ckusage
```

The whatis databases are typically updated via a cron entry. You can see this by looking at `/etc/crontab` and `/etc/cron.weekly/makewhatis.cron`