NAME

ctags - Generates "tags" and (optionally) "refs" files

SYNOPSIS

ctags [**-stvra**] *filesnames*...

DESCRIPTION

ctags generates the "tags" and "refs" files from a group of C source files. The "tags" file is used by Elvis' ":tag" command, control-] command, and -t option. The "refs" file is sometimes used by the *ref(1)* program.

Each C source file is scanned for #define statements and global function definitions. The name of the macro or function becomes the name of a tag. For each tag, a line is added to the "tags" file which contains:

- the name of the tag
- a tab character
- the name of the file containing the tag
- a tab character
- a way to find the particular line within the file.

The filenames list will typically be the names of all C source files in the current directory, like this:

```
$ ctags -stv *.[ch]
```

OPTIONS

-t Include typedefs. A tag will be generated for each user-defined type. Also tags will be generated for struct and enum names. Types are considered to be global if they are defined in a header file, and static if they are defined in a C source file.

-v Include variable declarations. A tag will be generated for each variable, except for those that are declared inside the body of a function.

-s Include static tags. *Ctags* will normally put global tags in the "tags" file, and silently ignore the static tags. This flag causes both global and static tags to be added. The name of a static tag is generated by prefixing the name of the declared item with the name of the file where it is defined, with a colon in between. For example, "static foo(){}" in "bar.c" results in a tag named "bar.c:foo".

-r This causes *ctags* to generate both "tags" and "refs". Without **-r**, it would only generate "tags".

-a Append to "tags", and maybe "refs". Normally, *ctags* overwrites these files each time it is invoked. This flag is useful when you have to many files in the current directory for you to list them on a single command-line; it allows you to split the arguments among several invocations.

FILES

tags A cross-reference that lists each tag name, the name of the source file that contains it, and a way to locate a particular line in the source file.

refs The "refs" file contains the definitions for each tag in the "tags" file, and very little else. This file can be useful, for example, when licensing restrictions prevent you from making the source code to the standard C library readable by everybody, but you still everybody to know what arguments the library functions need.

BUGS

ctags is sensitive to indenting and line breaks. Consequently, it might not discover all of the tags in a file that is formatted in an unusual way.

SEE ALSO

elvis(1), refs(1)

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