

**makeinfo**

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# Chapter 1

## makeinfo

### 1.1 makeinfo.guide

What is makeinfo?

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makeinfo is a program for converting TeXinfo files into Info files or AmigaGuide® hypertext files. TeXinfo is a documentation system that uses a single source file to produce both on-line information and printed output.

You can read the on-line information using Info; type info to learn about Info. See Texinfo, to learn about the TeXinfo documentation system.

Formatting Control

Controlling the width of lines, paragraph indentation, and other similar formatting.

Options

Command line options which control the behaviour of Makeinfo.

Pointer Validation

How Makeinfo can help you to track node references through complex Texinfo files.

The Macro Facility

Makeinfo allows the use of macros.

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Index of Concepts.

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## 1.2 makeinfo.guide/Formatting Control

### Controlling Paragraph Formats

Without any special options, makeinfo fills the paragraphs that it outputs to an Info file. Filling is the process of breaking and connecting lines so that lines are the same length as or shorter than the number specified as the fill column. Lines are broken between words. With makeinfo, you can control:

- \* The width of each paragraph (the fill-column).
- \* The amount of indentation that the first line of each paragraph receives (the paragraph-indentation).

## 1.3 makeinfo.guide/Options

### Command Line Options

The following command line options are available for makeinfo.

#### -D VAR

Cause VAR to be defined. This is equivalent to @set VAR in the Texinfo file.

#### --error-limit LIMIT

Set the maximum number of errors that makeinfo will report before exiting (on the assumption that continuing would be useless). The default number of errors that can be reported before makeinfo gives up is 100.

#### --fill-column WIDTH

Specify the maximum number of columns in a line; this is the right-hand edge of a line. Paragraphs that are filled will be filled to this width. The default value for fill-column is 72.

#### --footnote-style STYLE

Set the footnote style to STYLE, either end for the end node style or separate for the separate node style. The value set by this option overrides the value set in a Texinfo file by an @footnotestyle command. When the footnote style is separate, makeinfo makes a new node containing the footnotes found in the current node. When the footnote style is end, makeinfo places the footnote references at the end of the current node.

#### -I DIR

Add dir to the directory search list for finding files that are included using the @include command. By default, makeinfo searches only the current directory.

#### --no-headers

Do not include menus or node lines in the output. This results in an ascii file that you cannot read in Info since it does not contain the requisite nodes or menus; but you can print such a file in a single, typewriter-like font and produce acceptable output.

`--no-split`

Suppress the splitting stage of makeinfo. Normally, large output files (where the size is greater than 70k bytes) are split into smaller subfiles, each one approximately 50k bytes. If you specify `--no-split`, makeinfo will not split up the output file.

`--no-pointer-validate`

`--no-validate`

Suppress the pointer-validation phase of makeinfo. Normally, after a Texinfo file is processed, some consistency checks are made to ensure that cross references can be resolved, etc. See

Pointer Validation

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`--no-warn`

Suppress the output of warning messages. This does not suppress the output of error messages, only warnings. You might want this if the file you are creating has examples of Texinfo cross references within it, and the nodes that are referenced do not actually exist.

`--no-number-footnotes`

Suppress automatic footnote numbering. By default, makeinfo numbers each footnote sequentially in a single node, resetting the current footnote number to 1 at the start of each node.

`--output FILE`

`-o FILE`

Specify that the output should be directed to FILE and not to the file name specified in the `@setfilename` command found in the Texinfo source. FILE can be the special token `-`, which specifies standard output.

`--paragraph-indent INDENT`

Set the paragraph indentation style to INDENT. The value set by this option overrides the value set in a Texinfo file by an `@paragraphindent` command. The value of INDENT is interpreted as follows:

- \* If the value of INDENT is `asis`, do not change the existing indentation at the starts of paragraphs.
- \* If the value of INDENT is `zero`, delete any existing indentation.
- \* If the value of INDENT is greater than zero, indent each paragraph by that number of spaces.

`--reference-limit LIMIT`

Set the value of the number of references to a node that makeinfo

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will make without reporting a warning. If a node has more than this number of references in it, makeinfo will make the references but also report a warning.

-U VAR

Cause VAR to be undefined. This is equivalent to @clear VAR in the Texinfo file.

--verbose

Cause makeinfo to display messages saying what it is doing. Normally, makeinfo only outputs messages if there are errors or warnings.

--version

Report the version number of this copy of makeinfo.

--amiga

Converts a Texinfo file to AmigaGuide@ V34 hypertext format.

--amiga-39

Converts a Texinfo file to AmigaGuide@ V39 hypertext format.

--amiga-40

Converts a Texinfo file to AmigaGuide@ V40 hypertext format.

--index-button-length NUMBER

An index button will have a minimum length of NUMBER. The default value for index-button-length is 40. (Only used if converting to an AmigaGuide@ file).

--menu-button-length NUMBER

A menu button will have a minimum length of NUMBER. The default value for menu-button-length is 25. (Only used if converting to an AmigaGuide@ file).

--help

Show a summary of the command line arguments to makeinfo.

## 1.4 makeinfo.guide/Pointer Validation

Pointer Validation

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If you do not suppress pointer-validation (by using the --no-pointer-validation option), makeinfo will check the validity of the final Info file. Mostly, this means ensuring that nodes you have referenced really exist. Here is a complete list of what is checked:

1. If a 'Next', 'Previous', or 'Up' node reference is a reference to a node in the current file and is not an external reference such as to (dir), then the referenced node must exist.

2. In every node, if the 'Previous' node is different from the 'Up' node, then the 'Previous' node must also be pointed to by a 'Next' node.
3. Every node except the 'Top' node must have an 'Up' pointer.
4. The node referenced by an 'Up' pointer must contain a reference to the current node in some manner other than through a 'Next' reference. This includes menu entries and cross references.
5. If the 'Next' reference of a node is not the same as the 'Next' reference of the 'Up' reference, then the node referenced by the 'Next' pointer must have a 'Previous' pointer that points back to the current node. This rule allows the last node in a section to point to the first node of the next chapter.

## 1.5 makeinfo.guide/The Macro Facility

### The Macro Facility

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This chapter describes the new macro facility.

A macro is a command that you define in terms of other commands. It doesn't exist as a TeXinfo command until you define it as part of the input file to Makeinfo. Once the command exists, it behaves much as any other TeXinfo command. Macros are a useful way to ease the details and tedium of writing a 'correct' info file. The following sections explain how to write and invoke macros.

#### How to Use Macros in TeXinfo

How to use the macro facility.

#### Using Macros Recursively

How to write a macro which does (or doesn't) recurse.

#### Using TeXinfo Macros As Arguments

Passing a macro as an argument.

## 1.6 makeinfo.guide/How to Use Macros in TeXinfo

### How to Use Macros in TeXinfo

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Using macros in TeXinfo is easy. First you define the macro. After that, the macro command is available as a normal TeXinfo command. Here is what a definition looks like:

```
@macro NAME{ARG1, ... ARGN}
  TEXINFO COMMANDS...
@end macro
```

The arguments that you specify that the macro takes are expanded with the actual parameters used when calling the macro if they are seen surrounded by backslashes. For example, here is a definition of `@code{...}` which surrounds its argument with `@code{...}`.

```
@macro codeitem{item}
  @item @code{\item\}
@end macro
```

When the macro is expanded, all of the text between the `@macro` and the actual parameters substituted for the named parameters. So, a call to the above macro might look like:

```
@codeitem{Foo}
```

and Makeinfo would execute the following code:

```
@item @code{Foo}
```

A special case is made for macros which only take a single argument, and which are invoked without any brace characters (i.e., `{ ...}`) surrounding an argument; the rest of the line is supplied as is as the sole argument to the macro. This special case allows one to redefine some standard TeXinfo commands without modifying the input file. Along with the non-recursive action of macro invocation, one can easily redefine the sectioning commands to also provide index entries:

```
@macro chapter{name}
  @chapter \name\
  @findindex \name\
@end macro
```

Thus, the text:

```
@chapter strlen
```

will expand to:

```
@chapter strlen
@findindex strlen
```

## 1.7 makeinfo.guide/Using Macros Recursively

Using Macros Recursively

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Normally, while a particular macro is executing, any call to that macro will be seen as a call to a builtin TeXinfo command. This allows one to redefine a builtin TeXinfo command as a macro, and then use that command within the definition of the macro itself. For example, one might wish to make sure that wherever a term was defined with `index` for the manual. Here is a macro which redefines `@dfn` to do just that:

```
@macro dfn{text}
@dfn{\text\}
@cpindex \text\
@end macro
```

Note that we used the builtin TeXinfo command `@dfn` within our overriding macro definition.

This behaviour itself can be overridden for macro execution by writing a special macro control command in the definition of the macro. The command is considered special because it doesn't affect the output text directly, rather, it affects the way in which the macro is defined. One such special command is `@allow-recursion`.

```
@macro silly{arg}
@allow-recursion
\arg\
@end macro
```

Now `@silly` is a macro that can be used within a call to itself:

```
This text @silly{@silly{some text}} is ``some text''.
```

## 1.8 makeinfo.guide/Using TeXinfo Macros As Arguments

Using TeXinfo Macros As Arguments

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macro
  The Macro Facility

macro control command
  Using Macros Recursively

Pointer validation with makeinfo
  Pointer Validation

Validation of pointers
  Pointer Validation
```

How to use TeXinfo macros as arguments to other TeXinfo macros.

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## 1.9 makeinfo.guide/Index

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