

NAME

vftovp – convert TeX virtual font (vf) files to virtual property lists (vpl)

SYNOPSIS

vftovp [*options*] *vf_file*[.vf] [*tfm_file*[.tfm] [*vpl_file*[.vpl]]]

DESCRIPTION

The **vftovp** program translates a (binary) virtual font file and its accompanying TeX font metric file to a (plain text) property list file. Thus, the virtual font can be edited, and its exact contents can be displayed mnemonically. It also serves as a vf-file validating program, i.e., if no error messages are given, the input files are correct.

The filenames are extended with the appropriate extension if necessary.

TeX's virtual font format supports composing new characters from characters from any number of existing fonts, and also using rules in characters. This allows, for example, re-encoding with a mixture of characters from different fonts. These vf fonts are entirely unrelated to the variable fonts that can be created with OpenType, which also conventionally use the .vf extension.

OPTIONS

See **tex**(1) for details of command-line parsing.

-charcode-format=*format*

The argument *format* specifies how character codes are output in the vpl file. By default (the historical behavior), ASCII letters and digits are output using the "C" code (i.e., as themselves), and other characters are output in octal; unless the font's coding scheme starts with "TeX math sy" or "TeX math ex", in which case all character codes are output in octal.

If *format* is **ascii**, all character codes that correspond to graphic characters, besides the left and right parentheses, are output in ASCII.

Finally, if *format* is **octal**, all character codes are output in octal. (This option is the same as in **tftopl**.)

-verbose

By default, the program operates silently. With this option, some reports are written to stdout.

The standard **-help** and **-version** options are also supported.

ENVIRONMENT

The program looks for *vf_file* using the environment variable VFFONTS, and *tfm_file* using the environment variable TFMFONTS. If either is not set, it then checks the variable TEXTFONTS. If that is not set, it uses the system default. See the Kpathsea manual at <https://tug.org/kpathsea> for the details of the searching.

SEE ALSO

pltotf(1), **tftopl**(1), **vptovf**(1).

Brief description of virtual fonts, and additional references:

<https://tug.org/texinfohtml/dvips.html#Virtual-fonts>

Knuth's original message introducing virtual fonts: <https://mirror.ctan.org/info/virtual-fonts.knuth>

Font utility topic on CTAN: <https://ctan.org/topic/font-util>

Package page on CTAN: <https://ctan.org/pkg/vftovp>

Section in the Web2c manual: <https://tug.org/texinfohtml/web2c.html#vftovp-invocation>

Typeset source code, including the vf file format description: <https://ctan.org/pkg/knuth-pdf>

AUTHORS

Donald E. Knuth wrote the program, based in part on an idea of David Fuchs, starting with the code for **tf^{top}l**(1). Karl Berry adapted it for compilation with **web2c**.

Public discussion list and bug reports: <https://lists.tug.org/tex-k>