

**TBL(VI)**

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NAME

tbl - format tables for nroff or troff

SYNOPSIS

**tbl** [ files ] ...

DESCRIPTION

*Tbl* is an nroff (I) or troff(I) preprocessor for formatting tables. The input files are copied to the standard output, except for lines between .TS and .TE command lines, which are assumed to describe tables and reformatted. There are several global options; if any are desired they are specified on the first line after .TS as a series of keywords separated by blanks or commas and followed by a semicolon. The possible words are:

center - center the table;

expand - format the table to fill the current line length

box - enclose the table in a box

allbox - draw all possible lines so that every item is in a box

After this line (or after .TS if no global options are given) are the lines describing the table format. Each line describes a line of the actual table. One letter is used for each column. As many lines as needed to describe the table are given; the last line should end with the character '.' to signal the end of the format information. The last line of the description will apply to all following lines of the table. The legal characters to describe a column are:

c center within the column

r right-adjust

l left-adjust

n numerical adjustment: the units digits of numbers are aligned.

s span the previous entry over this column.

- replace this entry with a horizontal line

= replace this entry with a double horizontal line

A column letter may be followed by an integer giving the number of spaces between this column and the next; 3 is default. A column letter may be preceded by a '|' character to indicate that a vertical line is to be drawn to the left of this column. Letting \t represent a tab (which must be typed as a genuine tab) the input

```
.TS
c s s
c c s
c c c
l n n.
Household Population
Town\tHouseholds
\tNumber\tSize
Bedminster\t789\t3.26
Bernards Twp.\t3087\t3.74
Bernardsville\t2018\t3.30
Bound Brook\t3425\t3.04
Branchburg\t1644\t3.49
Bridgewater\t7897\t3.81
Far Hills\t240\t3.19
.TE
```

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yields

| Town          | Household Population |      |
|---------------|----------------------|------|
|               | Households           |      |
|               | Number               | Size |
| Bedminster    | 789                  | 3.26 |
| Bernards Twp. | 3087                 | 3.74 |
| Bernardsville | 2018                 | 3.30 |
| Bound Brook   | 3425                 | 3.04 |
| Branchburg    | 1644                 | 3.49 |
| Bridgewater   | 7897                 | 3.81 |
| Far Hills     | 240                  | 3.19 |

If a table element contains only "\_" or "==" a single or double line (respectively) is drawn across the column at that point. If a table line contains only "\_" or "==" a line is drawn all the way across the table (resp. double line). If a column describer contains the character "†" a vertical line is drawn to the left of that column beginning at the point in the column corresponding to the position of the vertical bar in the describer and extending to the bottom of the table.

If no arguments are given, *tbl* reads the standard input, so it may be used as a filter. When it is used with *eqn* or *neqn* the *tbl* command should be first, to minimize the volume of data passed through pipes.

**BUGS**