Making Pictures With GNU PIC

Eric S. Raymond
(esr@snark.thyrsus.com)

ABSTRACT

The pic language is a troff extension that makes it easy to create and alter box-and-arrow diagrams of the kind frequently used in technical papers and textbooks. This paper is both an introduction to and reference for gpic(1), the implementation distributed by the Free Software Foundation for use with groff(1).

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1. Introduction to PIC

1.1. Why PIC?

The pic language provides an easy way to write procedural box-and-arrow diagrams to be included in troff documents. The language is sufficiently flexible to be quite useful for state charts, Petri-net diagrams, flow charts, simple circuit schematics, jumper layouts, and other kinds of illustration involving repetitive uses of simple geometric forms and splines. Because these descriptions are procedural and object-based,