

**NAME**

`diff3` - 3-way differential file comparison

**SYNOPSIS**

`diff3` [ `-ex3` ] *file1* *file2* *file3*

**DESCRIPTION**

*Diff3* compares three versions of a file, and publishes disagreeing ranges of text flagged with these codes:

```

=====      all three files differ
=====1      file1 is different
=====2      file2 is different
=====3      file3 is different

```

The type of change suffered in converting a given range of a given file to some other is indicated in one of these ways:

```

f: n1 a      Text is to be appended after line number n1 in file f, where f = 1, 2,
                or 3.
f: n1 , n2 c  Text is to be changed in the range line n1 to line n2. If n1 = n2, the
                range may be abbreviated to n1.

```

The original contents of the range follows immediately after a `c` indication. When the contents of two files are identical, the contents of the lower-numbered file is suppressed.

Under the `-e` option, *diff3* publishes a script for the editor *ed* that will incorporate into *file1* all changes between *file2* and *file3*, i.e. the changes that normally would be flagged `=====` and `=====3`. Option `-x (-3)` produces a script to incorporate only changes flagged `=====` (`=====3`). The following command will apply the resulting script to *file1*.

```
(cat script; echo '1,$p') | ed - file1
```

**FILES**

```

/tmp/d3*
/usr/lib/diff3prog

```

**SEE ALSO**

`diff(1)`

**BUGS**

Text lines that consist of a single `.` will defeat `-e`.  
Files longer than 64K bytes won't work.