

Re: DOS Newline Character

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/alt.os.linux/2004-11/1515.html>

From: Roger Leigh (*{roger}_at_invalid.whinlatter.uklinux.net.invalid*)

Date: 11/23/04

Date: Tue, 23 Nov 2004 22:02:27 +0000

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Hash: SHA1

Lew Pitcher <Lew.Pitcher@td.com> writes:

> *Roger Leigh wrote:*

> *[snip]*

>> *Summary: CR/LF or CR or LF (or whatever your system uses) are merely*

>> *line-end markers. They don't directly correspond to any mechanical*

>> *operations, which are entirely hardware-dependent.*

>

> *Funny, the ECMA and ISO standards and my old ASR33 teletypewriter would*

> *disagree with you on this.*

That's true, but not all devices support those standards (ECMA-48 ?)

> *Your ESC/P printer seems to act otherwise, although I believe (because*

> *of my own use of an ESC/P printer) that you are incorrect in your*

> *assertions about the ESC/P interpretation of the characters. Certainly,*

> *on my Epson LQ-570 printer, with the "CR/LF" switch set to require both*

> *carriage returns and line feeds, a 0x0d causes printing to resume at the*

> *left margin of the current line, and 0x0a causes printing to resume at*

> *the current column of the next line.*

You are correct. My assertion was from memory; double-checking with the ESC/P2 reference:

CR: "Moves the print position to the left-margin position" (and flushes the line buffer)

LF: "Advances the vertical print position one line" and "Moves the print position to the left-margin position" (and flushes the line buffer on 9-pin ESC/P printers only)

ESC <: same as for CR, but additionally forces printing from the left-hand margin (i.e. unidirectionally; the default is bidirectional printing, so CR doesn't imply homing the head).

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So it's not totally in agreement with ECMA-48: LF includes an implicit CR, effectively making CR/LF redundant and transparently compatible with UNIX line endings as a happy side-effect.

(I think the reference doesn't tell the full story WRT the DIP settings: I've certainly had my 9-pin printers stair-step, which the reference implies cannot happen, but this isn't the case with current 24-pin, inkjet and laser implementations of ESC/P2).

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Roger Leigh

Printing on GNU/Linux? <http://gimp-print.sourceforge.net/>

Debian GNU/Linux <http://www.debian.org/>

GPG Public Key: 0x25BFB848. Please sign and encrypt your mail.

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