

**NAME**

xgettext – conditionally extract strings from C programs

**SYNOPSIS**

```
xgettext -d [ cmnopvhP ] [ -odirectory-prefix ] [ -xexclude-list ] [ filename ... ]
xgettext [ -aopvhp ] [ -xexclude-list ] [ filename ... ]
```

**DESCRIPTION**

**xgettext** is used to automate the creation of portable message files. A portable message file contains copies of "C" strings that are found in "C" source code in *filename*. When the **-d** option is specified, **xgettext** places the extracted strings in the file *name.po*. *name* is either the domain specified in a **dgettext** call, or **messages.po** for strings extracted from **gettext** and **textdomain** calls. If the **-d** flag is not specified, **xgettext** places all the strings in **messages.po**. The portable message file can be used as input to the **msgfmt(1)** utility, which will produce a binary form of the message file than can be used at application run-time.

**OPTIONS**

- a** Extract ALL strings, not just those found in **gettext**, **dgettext**, and **textdomain** calls.
- c flag** Comments beginning with *flag filename* on the first line of the comment are added to file *filename* as # delimited comments.
- d** Produce duplicates. Does not sort output when writing the portable message file and will not overwrite existing output files. Places output from each domain specified in a **dgettext** call into a separate file named for the domain, *ie. name.po*
- c flag** Comments beginning with *flag filename* on the first line of the comment are added to file *filename* as # delimited comments.
- mstring** Causes **xgettext** to fill in the **msgstr** line of the portable message files it produces. **xgettext** uses the corresponding msgid string extracted from the "C" file, appending *string*. Useful for debugging purposes.
- n** Add # delimited line number comments to output file indicating the line number in the source file where each extracted string is encountered.
- o filename** rename the default output file from **messages.po** to *filename*.
- p pathname** Specify the directory where the output files will be placed. This option overrides the current working directory.
- x filename** Specify a file that contains a list of strings that are not be extracted from the input files. Each string to be excluded must appear on a line by itself in the file *filename*.
- P** include strings in pre-processor statements.
- v** Verbose mode.
- h** Print a help message on standard output.

**FILES**

**messages.po** is always created, but may be empty.

**SEE ALSO**

**msgfmt(1)**, **xstr(1)**, **gettext**, **dgettext**, **textdomain(3)**.