

Making Pictures With GNU PIC

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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,