

NAME

colfmt – Line up words in columns for display.

SYNOPSIS

```
cat text | ${HOME}/bin/exe/colfmt
```

DESCRIPTION

If the COLUMNS shell variable is set and has a value between 24 and 96, that screen width is used; otherwise the screen width is assumed to be 96 characters.

The routine reads text from standard-in, breaks it into words, and finds the lengths of the words. Then it tries aligning the words in different numbers of columns until finding the widest arrangement that fits within the screen width. Finally it writes that raster of words to standard-out.

UNITS and FILES

```
5      input text
6      output display
```

DIAGNOSTICS

The program can stop with the following return codes.

```
0  all went well
1  character limit met
2  word limit met
3  column limit met
```

BUGS

None are known, but a switch in the source code can be set to cause debugging outputs to be written.

AUTHOR

Michael Kupferschmid

EXAMPLE

```
unix[1] export COLUMNS=50
unix[2] cat colfmt.f | rowcut 15-51 | colcut 7-14 | colfmt
BTD  CHARS  CW    DEBUG DTB   EXIT FMT   GETENV
I    ITAB   J    K    KK   KMAX L    LENGTH
LINE LS     LSMIN M    MAXCH MAXM MAXRW MAXWD
MIN0 NC    NCMAX NCUSE NW   R    RASTER RC
SCREEN SHIFTL TAB  W    WIDTH
```

Here the alphabetical list of variable names in colfmt.f is reformatted into columns.