

Re: use of small kana on the increase?

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- *From:* Phil Yff <phil.yff@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 6 Dec 2006 21:36:03 -0500
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On Wed, 06 Dec 2006 08:42:37 -0800, Dan Rempel wrote:

Phil Yff wrote:

On Wed, 6 Dec 2006 02:44:24 +0000 (UTC), John J. Chew III wrote:

To add quibbles though:

USENET should be capitalised, especially if you are talking about the good old days. 'tr' is a command, not a protocol, and it stands for 'translate', not 'transliterate'. ROT13 could loosely be called a protocol, but not a UNIX one. USENET did not originate as a file transfer protocol; it began by using the UUCP file transfer protocol. ROT13 is not the simplest cipher to use with tr; it would save quite a few keystrokes to use say "tr A-z N-zA-M". RFC 1036, the closest thing there is to a USENET newsreader standard, makes no mention of ROT13.

Note the lack of capitalization quoting from:

<http://usenet.ws/>

Usenet is one of the oldest and most popular online networks. Usenet has been around for nearly three decades, since 1979 to be precise.

In the good old days when we had only upper case Usenet was capitalized. However, I find it easier to write it otherwise as is accepted practice nowadays.

tr is a command. This is what my guide says:

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tr tr from_set to_set
TRansliterate characters in from_set to the corresponding character in
to_set
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I'm sure some guides have it as 'translate'. From a linguistic standpoint, translate is more accurate than transliterate.

Since we're quibblingly picking nits, which system are you referring to? I can't find my SysV manual, but the BSD and Solaris man pages both say 'tranlate'. Was it the same system where 'tr' defaulted to ROT13?

I never said 'tr' defaulted to ROT13. I said people started using the ROT13 cipher using the 'tr' command. Actually I said the 'tr' utility because I had to write a utility that accomplished what people on UNIX based systems were doing with the 'tr' command. (To be even more accurate, it was a ROSCOE proc – I was in an IBM mainframe environment). However, I concede that 'tr' is a UNIX command and not a utility since we're being so fastidious.

I, however, did not refer to 'tr' as a protocol as you allege. I said that Usenet originated as a "UNIX to UNIX file transfer protocol". That is an accurate statement. Usenet (short for 'user network') was a specialized application of UUCP (short for UNIX to UNIX Copy). UUCP was a library of programs and associated protocols for transferring files between UNIX copmputers. I also said, "UNIX protocols were a heavy influence on Usenet." That, too, was an accurate statement because Usenet relied heavily on UUCP protocols. Too avoid further quibbles, I realize that today hardly anyone uses UUCP and other protocols such as NNTP and IMAP are now used instead. And, yes, NNTP and IMAP are protocols. The 'P' in both acronyms stands for protocol.

Although I trust in your ability to search the web, since you wanted a reference for "tr – transliterate", go to this URL:

http://www.gnu.org/software/textutils/manual/textutils/html_chapter/textutils_10.html

I quote:

"The first is the tr command, which stands for "transliterate." The tr command works on a character-by-character basis, changing characters. Normally it is used for things like mapping upper case to lower case."

As I said earlier, some guides list the 'tr' command as translate. Wikipedia gives the command either name:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tr_\(Unix\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tr_(Unix))

I quote:

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"tr (abbreviated from translate or transliterate) is a command in Unix-like operating systems."

Phil Yff

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