

NAME

lmb — interactive line mode browser for teletypes

SYNOPSIS

lmb [-l *URL*] [-V] [-a] [-A]

lmb -h | --help

lmb -v | --version

DESCRIPTION**Overview**

lmb is an interactive line mode browser wrapper for teletypes, featuring an *ed*(1)-like interface. For help within interactive mode press *?* and *ENTER*. Verbose mode in interactive use is available by pressing *V* and *ENTER*. When using a glass teletype and not a paper terminal, option *m* enables a pager mode, where most information will be presented in a pager like *less*(1) or *more*(1). *V* together with *m* and *A*, which toggles the colour mode to ON, the combination of these options create a pleasant user interface.

For compatibility reasons, option *a* enables ASCII-only output.

Execution can be terminated any time by entering *^C*.

Browsing is achieved by firstly entering “g” and a *URL* directly afterwards as the argument separated with a space. As always, the statement has to be submitted by pressing *ENTER*. Then, secondly, a desired link number can be stated to move on: Either

1. from the references section by just entering the plain number or
2. from the browsing history by entering “H” with the link number as its argument directly afterwards.

Again, just press *ENTER* to submit your input. To view the retrieved page, state one of the four display commands: “p”, “P”, “n” or “N” and press *ENTER*. Output will be written *stdout*(4) directly or, if activated with “m”, through a pager. If an error occurs, error messages will be written to *stderr*(4) respectively.

Besides browsing by entering a URL or addressing links, an online search query can be requested with “s”. It works similar to “g”. Files can be downloaded to the parent working directory from links in the references section by stating “D” with the link number as its argument.

Details

lmb has two operating modes. A command line mode and an interactive mode. When launched without any options, the most desired menu driven interactive mode will be entered, where the program can be controlled by entering certain commands, which can be printed out, if desired. The menu, where commands can be entered, is indicated with a colon “:” as its prompt, comparable to *ed*(1), *ex*(1) or *vi*(1).

When launched with command line options, **lmb** behaves like any other terminal (filter) utility.

When launched interactively, for browsing a *URL* has to be entered, which will be requested by pressing “g” for “goto” and “return” to state the input.

After retrieval of the website, brief statistical information about the retrieved data of the current page will be printed out to give the user a hint about what quantitatively to expect for the printout. Those stats are:

The current *URL*, and immediately followed in the next line by

1. numbers of position in the navigating history and overall history,
2. numbers of sizes in Bytes of the plain page and including the references section,
3. line numbers of the plain page or including the references section and
4. hyperlink count in the current page.

lmb will start over in the menu after finishing a browsing loop with its distinctive colon prompt “:”.

When being in the menu, “p” prints out the page in the buffer. “n” does the same, but adds line numbers ahead of the output. “P” and “N” work respectively, but add the references section at the end of the output.

Navigating is mainly achieved by a *link number* addressing. Hyperlinks in the page output will be presented as references with progressively ascending numbers in rectangular brackets. For example: “[123]”, followed by the text, where the link belongs to immediately afterwards of the reference. This

number corresponds with the link number in the references section. To visit the link with a corresponding number, in the menu, you just have to type in the number of the link and press ENTER.

If desired, the verbose mode with printout of the help after every loop can be enabled and disabled again by toggeling “V” and “return” in the menu.

Besides direct URL-browsing and link number based reference browsing, history browsing can be achieved in the same way by entering “H” and a link number. Therefore, it is wise to print out the history of visited locations in advance by entering “h” to get an overview. They will be also presented with their corresponding link numbers, from which you can choose for “H”. If a browsing history is absent, option “H” falls back to the main menu again.

When you want to reload the current *URL*, enter “U”. To do the same for the previous *URL*, enter “O”. It is also possible to just go back and forth through the history by “b” and “f”.

A pager like *less*(1) or *more*(1) can be enabled when using a glass teletype by entering “m”. This can help to scroll through the page output. Combined with the verbose mode “V”, this provides a pleasant user interface when using a glass teletype.

For compatibility reasons, option *a* enables ASCII-only output.

If desired, the browser session could be logged and exported to a file with “e”. Although, **lmb** is a line oriented browser, if used within a glass teletype, the screen can be cleared by entering “c”.

Files can be downloaded to the parent working directory from links in the references section by stating “D” with the link number as its argument. An existing file might be overwritten. There will be no warning, if you do so.

“v” requests version, date, contact and licence information. Ultimately, “q” quits the program.

For “EXAMPLES” in details see below.

Options

The options – besides arguments – on the command line are as follows:

-h | --help

Print out a short help to *stdout*(4). No other option is viable with **-h / --help**.

In case of an error, this short help will be printed out to *stderr*(4) with a brief description of the nature of the error.

-v | --version

Print out information about version, date, author, copyright and contact data to *stdout*(4). No other option is viable with **-v / --version**.

The following options are discretional:

-l URL

Specify (web) address locator to browse to stated by the *URL* argument. *URL* can be any single location on a local computer such as a pathname or a web address respectively.

-V Enable verbose mode. Due to the nature of being a line oriented browser designed to operate with teletypes, the programs output are very terse, as with *ed*(1) for the same reason. When enabled, in interactive mode, **lmb** prints out a short help every time it finishes a loop to give the user always a visible information about the options of the program. Help within interactive mode can be printed out by pressing *?* in the menu and *ENTER*.

-a Enables ASCII-only output, hence disables the Unicode output.

-A Enables colour output instead of monochrome.

IMPLEMENTATION

lmb has been implemented in POSIX Bourne Shell *sh*(1), relying mostly on programs and constructs of a standard POSIX compliant system. The actual browser utilised in the background is *lynx*(1), alternatively *elinks*(1), *w3m*(1) or *links*(1), in that row.

EXIT STATUS

The **lmb** utility exits 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

EXAMPLES

1. Launches application in interactive mode:

```
lmb
```

2. Launches application in command line mode:

```
lmb -l https://example.com
```

3. As 2, but enables verbose mode:

```
lmb -l https://example.com -V
```

SEE ALSO

ed(1), elinks(1), ex(1), less(1), links(1), lynx(1), more(1), sh(1), vi(1), w3m(1) 1, stdin(4), stdout(4), stderr(4)

STANDARDS

lmb is expected to be written in valid IEEE Std 1003.2 (“POSIX.2”).

Besides that **lmb** is designed to limit its own printouts to a width of 72 characters per line with no more than 23 lines per command loop in pure *ascii(7)* to stay compatible with even the oldest (glass) terminals.

HISTORY

A **lmb** utility exists since July, 12th, 2026 and is loosely inspired by the **Line Mode Browser** of the *w3c / CERN* and **tttylynx** by *alnwlsn*.

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