

LAST(1)

User Commands

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## NAME

**last, lastb** - show a listing of last logged in users

## SYNOPSIS

**last** [options] [username...] [tty...]

**lastb** [options] [username...] [tty...]

## DESCRIPTION

**last** searches back through the `/var/log/wtmp` file (or the file designated by the `-f` option) and displays a list of all users logged in (and out) since that file was created. One or more usernames and/or ttys can be given, in which case **last** will show only the entries matching those arguments. Names of ttys can be abbreviated, thus **last 0** is the same as **last tty0**.

When catching a SIGINT signal (generated by the interrupt key, usually control-C) or a SIGQUIT signal, **last** will show how far it has searched through the file; in the case of the SIGINT signal **last** will then terminate.

The pseudo user `reboot` logs in each time the system is rebooted. Thus

created.

**lastb** is the same as **last**, except that by default it shows a log of the `/var/log/btmp` file, which contains all the bad login attempts.

## OPTIONS

**-a, --hostlast**

Display the hostname in the last column. Useful in combination with the `--dns` option.

**-d, --dns**

For non-local logins, Linux stores not only the host name of the remote host, but its IP number as well. This option translates the IP number back into a hostname.

**-f, --file file**

Tell **last** to use a specific file instead of `/var/log/wtmp`. The `--file` option can be given multiple times, and all of the specified files will be processed.

**-F, --fulltimes**

Print full login and logout times and dates.

**-i, --ip**

**-number; -n, --limit number**

Tell last how many lines to show.

**-p, --present time**

Display the users who were present at the specified time. This is like using the options `--since` and `--until` together with the same time.

**-R, --nohostname**

Suppresses the display of the hostname field.

**-s, --since time**

Display the state of logins since the specified time. This is useful, e.g., to easily determine who was logged in at a particular time. The option is often combined with `--until`.

**-t, --until time**

Display the state of logins until the specified time.

**--time-format format**

Define the output timestamp format to be one of `notime`, `short`, `full`, or `iso`. The `notime` variant will not print any timestamps at all, `short` is the default, and `full` is the same as the `--fulltimes`

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format. The ISO format contains timezone information, making it preferable when printouts are investigated outside of the system.

**-w, --fullnames**

Display full user names and domain names in the output.

**-x, --system**

Display the system shutdown entries and run level changes.

**-h, --help**

Display help text and exit.

**-V, --version**

Print version and exit.

## TIME FORMATS

The options that take the time argument understand the following formats:

??

? ? ?

? YYYYMMDDhhmmss ? ?

??

? ? ?

? YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss ? ?

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? ? ?  
? YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm ? (seconds will be set to ?  
? ? 00) ?  
??  
? ? ?  
? YYYY-MM-DD ? (time will be set to ?  
? ? 00:00:00) ?  
??  
? ? ?  
? hh:mm:ss ? (date will be set to ?  
? ? today) ?  
??  
? ? ?  
? hh:mm ? (date will be set to ?  
? ? today, seconds to 00) ?  
??  
? ? ?  
? now ? ?  
??  
? ? ?  
? yesterday ? (time is set to 00:00:00) ?  
??  
? ? ?  
? today ? (time is set to 00:00:00) ?

```
?           ?           ?  
? tomorrow      ? (time is set to 00:00:00) ?  
????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????  
?           ?           ?  
? +5min        ?           ?  
????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????  
?           ?           ?  
? -5days      ?           ?  
????????????????????????????????????????????????????????????
```

## FILES

`/var/log/wtmp`, `/var/log/btmp`

## NOTES

The files `wtmp` and `btmp` might not be found. The system only logs information in these files if they are present. This is a local configuration issue. If you want the files to be used, they can be created with a simple `touch(1)` command (for example, `touch /var/log/wtmp`).

An empty entry is a valid type of `wtmp` entry. It means that an empty file or file with zeros is not interpreted as an error.

The `utmp` file format uses fixed sizes of strings, which means that very

display by last. The usual limits are 32 bytes for a user and line name and 256 bytes for a hostname.

## AUTHORS

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## SEE ALSO

login(1), wtmp(5), init(8), shutdown(8)

## REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at <https://github.com/util-linux/util-linux/issues>.

## AVAILABILITY

The last command is part of the util-linux package which can be downloaded from Linux Kernel Archive <<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>>.

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