



Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'alias.1p' command

\$ man alias.1p

ALIAS(1P) POSIX Programmer's Manual ALIAS(1P)

PROLOG

This manual page is part of the POSIX Programmer's Manual. The Linux implementation of this interface may differ (consult the corresponding Linux manual page for details of Linux behavior), or the interface may not be implemented on Linux.

NAME

alias ? define or display aliases

SYNOPSIS

alias [alias-name[=string]...]

DESCRIPTION

The alias utility shall create or redefine alias definitions or write the values of existing alias definitions to standard output. An alias definition provides a string value that shall replace a command name when it is encountered; see Section 2.3.1, Alias Substitution.

An alias definition shall affect the current shell execution environment and the execution environments of the subshells of the current shell. When used as specified by this volume of POSIX.1?2017, the alias definition shall not affect the parent process of the current shell nor any utility environment invoked by the shell; see Section 2.12, Shell Execution Environment.

OPTIONS

None.

OPERANDS

The following operands shall be supported:

alias-name

Write the alias definition to standard output.

alias-name=string

Assign the value of string to the alias alias-name.

If no operands are given, all alias definitions shall be written to standard output.

STDIN

Not used.

INPUT FILES

None.

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

The following environment variables shall affect the execution of alias:

LANG Provide a default value for the internationalization variables that are unset or null. (See the Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Section 8.2, Internationalization Variables for the precedence of internationalization variables used to determine the values of locale categories.)

LC_ALL If set to a non-empty string value, override the values of all the other internationalization variables.

LC_CTYPE Determine the locale for the interpretation of sequences of bytes of text data as characters (for example, single-byte as opposed to multi-byte characters in arguments).

LC_MESSAGES

Determine the locale that should be used to affect the format and contents of diagnostic messages written to standard error.

NLSPATH Determine the location of message catalogs for the processing of LC_MESSAGES.

ASYNCHRONOUS EVENTS

Default.

STDOUT

The format for displaying aliases (when no operands or only name operands are specified) shall be:

```
"%s=%s\n", name, value
```

The value string shall be written with appropriate quoting so that it is suitable for reinput to the shell. See the description of shell quoting in Section 2.2, Quoting.

STDERR

The standard error shall be used only for diagnostic messages.

OUTPUT FILES

None.

EXTENDED DESCRIPTION

None.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values shall be returned:

- 0 Successful completion.
- >0 One of the name operands specified did not have an alias definition, or an error occurred.

CONSEQUENCES OF ERRORS

Default.

The following sections are informative.

APPLICATION USAGE

None.

EXAMPLES

1. Create a short alias for a commonly used ls command:

```
alias lf="ls -CF"
```

2. Create a simple ``redo'' command to repeat previous entries in the command history file:

```
alias r='fc -s'
```

3. Use 1K units for du:

```
alias du=du\ -k
```

4. Set up nohup so that it can deal with an argument that is itself an

alias name:

```
alias nohup="nohup "
```

RATIONALE

The alias description is based on historical KornShell implementations. Known differences exist between that and the C shell. The KornShell version was adopted to be consistent with all the other KornShell features in this volume of POSIX.1?2017, such as command line editing. Since alias affects the current shell execution environment, it is generally provided as a shell regular built-in.

Historical versions of the KornShell have allowed aliases to be exported to scripts that are invoked by the same shell. This is triggered by the alias -x flag; it is allowed by this volume of POSIX.1?2017 only when an explicit extension such as -x is used. The standard developers considered that aliases were of use primarily to interactive users and that they should normally not affect shell scripts called by those users; functions are available to such scripts.

Historical versions of the KornShell had not written aliases in a quoted manner suitable for reentry to the shell, but this volume of POSIX.1?2017 has made this a requirement for all similar output. Therefore, consistency was chosen over this detail of historical practice.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

SEE ALSO

Section 2.9.5, Function Definition Command

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Chapter 8, Environment Variables

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