# Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'mesg.1' command

### $ man mesg.1

MESG(1)                    User Commands                    MESG(1)

NAME

   mesg - display (or do not display) messages from other users

SYNOPSIS

   mesg [option] [n|y]

DESCRIPTION

   The mesg utility is invoked by a user to control write access others

   have to the terminal device associated with standard error output. If

   write access is allowed, then programs such as talk(1) and write(1) may

   display messages on the terminal.

   Traditionally, write access is allowed by default. However, as users

   become more conscious of various security risks, there is a trend to

   remove write access by default, at least for the primary login shell.

   To make sure your ttys are set the way you want them to be set, mesg

   should be executed in your login scripts.

   The mesg utility silently exits with error status 2 if not executed on

   terminal. In this case execute mesg is pointless. The command line

   option --verbose forces mesg to print a warning in this situation. This

   behaviour has been introduced in version 2.33.

ARGUMENTS

   n

     Disallow messages.

   y

Allow messages to be displayed.

If no arguments are given, mesg shows the current message status on standard error output.

## OPTIONS

-v, --verbose

Explain what is being done.

-V, --version

Display version information and exit.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

## EXIT STATUS

The mesg utility exits with one of the following values:

0

Messages are allowed.

1

Messages are not allowed.

>1

An error has occurred.

## FILES

/dev/[pt]ty[pq]?

## HISTORY

A mesg command appeared in Version 6 AT&T UNIX.

## SEE ALSO

login(1), talk(1), write(1), wall(1), xterm(1)

## REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at

https://github.com/karelzak/util-linux/issues.

## AVAILABILITY

The mesg 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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