



*Full credit is given to the above companies including the OS that this PDF file was generated!*

## ***Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'nl.1p' command***

**\$ man nl.1p**

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

nl ? line numbering filter

### SYNOPSIS

```
nl [-p] [-b type] [-d delim] [-f type] [-h type] [-i incr] [-l num]
    [-n format] [-s sep] [-v startnum] [-w width] [file]
```

### DESCRIPTION

The nl utility shall read lines from the named file or the standard input if no file is named and shall reproduce the lines to standard output. Lines shall be numbered on the left. Additional functionality may be provided in accordance with the command options in effect.

The nl utility views the text it reads in terms of logical pages. Line numbering shall be reset at the start of each logical page. A logical page consists of a header, a body, and a footer section. Empty sections are valid. Different line numbering options are independently available for header, body, and footer (for example, no numbering of header and footer lines while numbering blank lines only in the body).

The starts of logical page sections shall be signaled by input lines



`-i incr` Specify the increment value used to number logical page lines. The default shall be 1.

`-l num` Specify the number of blank lines to be considered as one. For example, `-l 2` results in only the second adjacent blank line being numbered (if the appropriate `-h a`, `-b a`, or `-f a` option is set). The default shall be 1.

`-n format` Specify the line numbering format. Recognized values are: `ln`, left justified, leading zeros suppressed; `rn`, right justified, leading zeros suppressed; `rz`, right justified, leading zeros kept. The default format shall be `rn` (right justified).

`-p` Specify that numbering should not be restarted at logical page delimiters.

`-s sep` Specify the characters used in separating the line number and the corresponding text line. The default `sep` shall be a `<tab>`.

`-v startnum`  
Specify the initial value used to number logical page lines. The default shall be 1.

`-w width` Specify the number of characters to be used for the line number. The default width shall be 6.

## OPERANDS

The following operand shall be supported:

`file` A pathname of a text file to be line-numbered.

## STDIN

The standard input shall be used if no file operand is specified, and shall be used if the file operand is `'-'` and the implementation treats the `'-'` as meaning standard input. Otherwise, the standard input shall not be used. See the INPUT FILES section.

## INPUT FILES

The input file shall be a text file.

## ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

The following environment variables shall affect the execution of `nl`:

`LANG` Provide a default value for the internationalization vari?

ables 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\_COLLATE**

Determine the locale for the behavior of ranges, equivalence classes, and multi-character collating elements within regular expressions.

**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 and input files), the behavior of character classes within regular expressions, and for deciding which characters are in character class graph (for the `-b t`, `-f t`, and `-h t` options).

#### **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 standard output shall be a text file in the following format:

"%s%s%s", <line number>, <separator>, <input line>

where <line number> is one of the following numeric formats:

`%6d` When the `rn` format is used (the default; see `-n`).

`%06d` When the `rz` format is used.

`%-6d` When the `ln` format is used.

<empty> When line numbers are suppressed for a portion of the page;

the <separator> is also suppressed.

In the preceding list, the number 6 is the default width; the `-w` option can change this value.

## 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 An error occurred.

## CONSEQUENCES OF ERRORS

Default.

The following sections are informative.

## APPLICATION USAGE

In using the `-d` `delim` option, care should be taken to escape characters that have special meaning to the command interpreter.

## EXAMPLES

The command:

```
nl -v 10 -i 10 -d \!+ file1
```

numbers `file1` starting at line number 10 with an increment of 10. The logical page delimiter is `"!+"`. Note that the `!` has to be escaped when using `cs`h as a command interpreter because of its history substitution syntax. For `ksh` and `sh` the escape is not necessary, but does not do any harm.

## RATIONALE

None.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

## SEE ALSO

`pr`

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

COPYRIGHT

Portions of this text are reprinted and reproduced in electronic form from IEEE Std 1003.1-2017, Standard for Information Technology -- Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX), The Open Group Base Specifications Issue 7, 2018 Edition, Copyright (C) 2018 by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc and The Open Group. In the event of any discrepancy between this version and the original IEEE and The Open Group Standard, the original IEEE and The Open Group Standard is the referee document. The original Standard can be obtained online at <http://www.opengroup.org/unix/online.html> .

Any typographical or formatting errors that appear in this page are most likely to have been introduced during the conversion of the source files to man page format. To report such errors, see [https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/reporting\\_bugs.html](https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/reporting_bugs.html) .