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

\$ man sleep.1p

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

sleep ? suspend execution for an interval

SYNOPSIS

sleep time

DESCRIPTION

The sleep utility shall suspend execution for at least the integral number of seconds specified by the time operand.

OPTIONS

None.

OPERANDS

The following operand shall be supported:

time A non-negative decimal integer specifying the number of seconds for which to suspend execution.

STDIN

Not used.

INPUT FILES

None.

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

The following environment variables shall affect the execution of sleep:

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

If the sleep utility receives a SIGALRM signal, one of the following actions shall be taken:

1. Terminate normally with a zero exit status.
2. Effectively ignore the signal.
3. Provide the default behavior for signals described in the ASYNCHROUS EVENTS section of Section 1.4, Utility Description Defaults.

This could include terminating with a non-zero exit status.

The sleep utility shall take the standard action for all other signals.

The sleep utility shall take the standard action for all other signals.

STDOUT

Not used.

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 The execution was successfully suspended for at least `time` seconds, or a `SIGALRM` signal was received. See the `ASYNCHRONOUS EVENTS` section.
- >0 An error occurred.

CONSEQUENCES OF ERRORS

Default.

The following sections are informative.

APPLICATION USAGE

None.

EXAMPLES

The `sleep` utility can be used to execute a command after a certain amount of time, as in:

```
(sleep 105; command) &
```

or to execute a command every so often, as in:

```
while true
do
    command
    sleep 37
done
```

RATIONALE

The `exit` status is allowed to be zero when `sleep` is interrupted by the `SIGALRM` signal because most implementations of this utility rely on the arrival of that signal to notify them that the requested finishing time has been successfully attained. Such implementations thus do not distinguish this situation from the successful completion case. Other implementations are allowed to catch the signal and go back to `sleep` until the requested time expires or to provide the normal signal termination procedures.

As with all other utilities that take integral operands and do not specify subranges of allowed values, sleep is required by this volume of POSIX.1?2017 to deal with time requests of up to 2147483647 seconds. This may mean that some implementations have to make multiple calls to the delay mechanism of the underlying operating system if its argument range is less than this.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

SEE ALSO

wait

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

The System Interfaces volume of POSIX.1?2017, alarm(), sleep()

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