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

$ man write.1p

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

write ? write to another user

SYNOPSIS

write user_name [terminal]

DESCRIPTION

The write utility shall read lines from the standard input and write them to the terminal of the specified user. When first invoked, it shall write the message:

Message from sender-login-id (sending-terminal) [date]...

to user_name. When it has successfully completed the connection, the sender's terminal shall be alerted twice to indicate that what the sender is typing is being written to the recipient's terminal.

If the recipient wants to reply, this can be accomplished by typing:

write sender-login-id [sending-terminal]

upon receipt of the initial message. Whenever a line of input as delim? ited by an NL, EOF, or EOL special character (see the Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Chapter 11, General Terminal Interface) is ac?

cumulated while in canonical input mode, the accumulated data shall be written on the other user's terminal. Characters shall be processed as follows:

* Typing <alert> shall write the <alert> character to the recipient's terminal.
* Typing the erase and kill characters shall affect the sender's ter? minal in the manner described by the termios interface in the Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Chapter 11, General Terminal Interface.
* Typing the interrupt or end-of-file characters shall cause write to write an appropriate message ("EOT\n" in the POSIX locale) to the recipient's terminal and exit.
* Typing characters from LC_CTYPE classifications print or space shall cause those characters to be sent to the recipient's termi? nal.
* When and only when the stty iexten local mode is enabled, the exis? tence and processing of additional special control characters and multi-byte or single-byte functions is implementation-defined.
* Typing other non-printable characters shall cause implementation-defined sequences of printable characters to be written to the re? cipient's terminal.

To write to a user who is logged in more than once, the terminal argu? ment can be used to indicate which terminal to write to; otherwise, the recipient's terminal is selected in an implementation-defined manner and an informational message is written to the sender's standard out? put, indicating which terminal was chosen.

Permission to be a recipient of a write message can be denied or granted by use of the mesg utility. However, a user's privilege may further constrain the domain of accessibility of other users' termi? nals. The write utility shall fail when the user lacks appropriate privileges to perform the requested action.

OPTIONS

None.

OPERANDS

The following operands shall be supported:

user_name Login name of the person to whom the message shall be writ?
ten. The application shall ensure that this operand is of the
form returned by the who utility.

terminal Terminal identification in the same format provided by the
who utility.

STDIN

Lines to be copied to the recipient's terminal are read from standard
input.

INPUT FILES

None.

ENVIRONMENT VARIABLES

The following environment variables shall affect the execution of
write:

LANG Provide a default value for the internationalization vari?
ables that are unset or null. (See the Base Definitions vol?
ume of POSIX.1?2017, Section 8.2, Internationalization Vari?
ables 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 and input
files). If the recipient's locale does not use an LC_CTYPE
equivalent to the sender's, the results are undefined.

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

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

ASYNCHRONOUS EVENTS

If an interrupt signal is received, write shall write an appropriate message on the recipient's terminal and exit with a status of zero. It shall take the standard action for all other signals.

STDOUT

An informational message shall be written to standard output if a re? cipient is logged in more than once.

STDERR

The standard error shall be used only for diagnostic messages.

OUTPUT FILES

The recipient's terminal is used for output.

EXTENDED DESCRIPTION

None.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values shall be returned:

0 Successful completion.

>0 The addressed user is not logged on or the addressed user denies permission.

CONSEQUENCES OF ERRORS

Default.

The following sections are informative.

APPLICATION USAGE

The talk utility is considered by some users to be a more usable util? ity on full-screen terminals.

EXAMPLES

None.

RATIONALE

The write utility was included in this volume of POSIX.1?2017 since it can be implemented on all terminal types. The standard developers con? sidered the talk utility, which cannot be implemented on certain termi? nals, to be a ``better'' communications interface. Both of these pro? grams are in widespread use on historical implementations. Therefore, the standard developers decided that both utilities should be speci?

fied.

The format of the terminal name is unspecified, but the descriptions of ps, talk, who, and write require that they all use or accept the same format.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

SEE ALSO

mesg, talk, who

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, Chapter 8, Environment Variables, Chapter 11, General Terminal Interface

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