



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'localectl.1'

\$ man localectl.1

LOCALECTL(1) localectl LOCALECTL(1)

NAME

localectl - Control the system locale and keyboard layout settings

SYNOPSIS

localectl [OPTIONS...] {COMMAND}

DESCRIPTION

localectl may be used to query and change the system locale and keyboard layout settings. It communicates with systemd-localed(8) to modify files such as /etc/locale.conf and /etc/vconsole.conf.

The system locale controls the language settings of system services and of the UI before the user logs in, such as the display manager, as well as the default for users after login.

The keyboard settings control the keyboard layout used on the text console and of the graphical UI before the user logs in, such as the display manager, as well as the default for users after login.

Note that the changes performed using this tool might require the initrd to be rebuilt to take effect during early system boot. The initrd is not rebuilt automatically by localectl, this task has to be performed manually, usually by reinstalling the distribution's kernel package.

Note that systemd-firstboot(1) may be used to initialize the system locale for mounted (but not booted) system images.

COMMANDS

The following commands are understood:

status

Show current settings of the system locale and keyboard mapping. If no command is specified, this is the implied default.

Added in version 195.

`set-locale LOCALE, set-locale VARIABLE=LOCALE...`

Set the system locale. This takes one locale such as "en_US.UTF-8", or takes one or more locale assignments such as "LANG=de_DE.utf8", "LC_MESSAGES=en_GB.utf8", and so on. If one locale without variable name is provided, then "LANG=" locale variable will be set.

See locale(7) for details on the available settings and their meanings. Use list-locales for a list of available locales (see below).

Added in version 195.

`list-locales`

List available locales useful for configuration with set-locale.

Added in version 195.

`set-keymap MAP [TOGGLEMAP]`

Set the system keyboard mapping for the console and X11. This takes a mapping name (such as "de" or "us"), and possibly a second one to define a toggle keyboard mapping. Unless --no-convert is passed, the selected setting is also applied as the default system keyboard mapping of X11, after converting it to the closest matching X11 keyboard mapping. Use list-keymaps for a list of available keyboard mappings (see below).

Added in version 195.

`list-keymaps`

List available keyboard mappings for the console, useful for configuration with set-keymap.

Added in version 195.

`set-x11-keymap LAYOUT [MODEL [VARIANT [OPTIONS]]]`

Set the system default keyboard mapping for X11 and the virtual console. This takes a keyboard mapping name (such as "de" or "us"), and possibly a model, variant, and options, see kbd(4) for details. Unless --no-convert is passed, the selected setting is also applied as the system console keyboard mapping, after converting it to the closest matching console keyboard mapping.

Added in version 195.

`list-x11-keymap-models, list-x11-keymap-layouts, list-x11-keymap-variants [LAYOUT],`

`list-x11-keymap-options`

List available X11 keymap models, layouts, variants and options, useful for configuration with set-keymap. The command list-x11-keymap-variants optionally takes a layout parameter to limit the output to the variants suitable for the specific layout.

Added in version 201.

OPTIONS

The following options are understood:

-l, --full

Do not ellipsize the output.

Added in version 257.

--no-convert

If set-keymap or set-x11-keymap is invoked and this option is passed, then the keymap will not be converted from the console to X11, or X11 to console, respectively.

Added in version 195.

-H, --host=

Execute the operation remotely. Specify a hostname, or a username and hostname separated by "@", to connect to. The hostname may optionally be suffixed by a port ssh is listening on, separated by ":", and then a container name, separated by "/", which connects directly to a specific container on the specified host. This will use SSH to talk to the remote machine manager instance. Container names may be enumerated with machinectl -H HOST. Put IPv6 addresses in brackets.

-M, --machine=

Execute operation on a local container. Specify a container name to connect to, optionally prefixed by a user name to connect as and a separating "@" character. If the special string ".host" is used in place of the container name, a connection to the local system is made (which is useful to connect to a specific user's user bus: "--user --machine=lennart@.host"). If the "@" syntax is not used, the connection is made as root user. If the "@" syntax is used either the left hand side or the right hand side may be omitted (but not both) in which case the local user name and ".host" are implied.

--no-ask-password

Do not query the user for authentication for privileged operations.

-h, --help

Print a short help text and exit.

--version

Print a short version string and exit.

--no-pager

Do not pipe output into a pager.

EXIT STATUS

On success, 0 is returned, a non-zero failure code otherwise.

ENVIRONMENT

\$SYSTEMD_LOG_LEVEL

The maximum log level of emitted messages (messages with a higher log level, i.e. less important ones, will be suppressed). Takes a comma-separated list of values. A value may be either one of (in order of decreasing importance) emerg, alert, crit, err, warning, notice, info, debug, or an integer in the range 0...7. See `syslog(3)` for more information. Each value may optionally be prefixed with one of console, syslog, kmsg or journal followed by a colon to set the maximum log level for that specific log target (e.g. `SYSTEMD_LOG_LEVEL=debug,console:info` specifies to log at debug level except when logging to the console which should be at info level). Note that the global maximum log level takes priority over any per target maximum log levels.

\$SYSTEMD_LOG_COLOR

A boolean. If true, messages written to the tty will be colored according to priority.

This setting is only useful when messages are written directly to the terminal, because `journalctl(1)` and other tools that display logs will color messages based on the log level on their own.

\$SYSTEMD_LOG_TIME

A boolean. If true, console log messages will be prefixed with a timestamp.

This setting is only useful when messages are written directly to the terminal or a file, because `journalctl(1)` and other tools that display logs will attach timestamps based on the entry metadata on their own.

\$SYSTEMD_LOG_LOCATION

A boolean. If true, messages will be prefixed with a filename and line number in the source code where the message originates.

Note that the log location is often attached as metadata to journal entries anyway.

Including it directly in the message text can nevertheless be convenient when debugging programs.

\$SYSTEMD_LOG_TID

A boolean. If true, messages will be prefixed with the current numerical thread ID (TID).

Note that the this information is attached as metadata to journal entries anyway.

Including it directly in the message text can nevertheless be convenient when debugging programs.

`$SYSTEMD_LOG_TARGET`

The destination for log messages. One of console (log to the attached tty), console-prefixed (log to the attached tty but with prefixes encoding the log level and "facility", see `syslog(3)`), `kmsg` (log to the kernel circular log buffer), journal (log to the journal), `journal-or-kmsg` (log to the journal if available, and to `kmsg` otherwise), `auto` (determine the appropriate log target automatically, the default), `null` (disable log output).

`$SYSTEMD_LOG_RATELIMIT_KMSG`

Whether to `ratelimit kmsg` or not. Takes a boolean. Defaults to "true". If disabled, `systemd` will not `ratelimit` messages written to `kmsg`.

`$SYSTEMD_PAGER`, `$PAGER`

Pager to use when `--no-pager` is not given. `$SYSTEMD_PAGER` is used if set; otherwise `$PAGER` is used. If neither `$SYSTEMD_PAGER` nor `$PAGER` are set, a set of well-known pager implementations is tried in turn, including `less(1)` and `more(1)`, until one is found. If no pager implementation is discovered, no pager is invoked. Setting those environment variables to an empty string or the value "cat" is equivalent to passing `--no-pager`.

Note: if `$SYSTEMD_PAGERSECURE` is not set, `$SYSTEMD_PAGER` and `$PAGER` can only be used to disable the pager (with "cat" or ""), and are otherwise ignored.

`$SYSTEMD_LESS`

Override the options passed to `less` (by default "FRSXMK").

Users might want to change two options in particular:

K

This option instructs the pager to exit immediately when Ctrl+C is pressed. To allow `less` to handle Ctrl+C itself to switch back to the pager command prompt, unset this option.

If the value of `$SYSTEMD_LESS` does not include "K", and the pager that is invoked is `less`, Ctrl+C will be ignored by the executable, and needs to be handled by the pager.

X

This option instructs the pager to not send termcap initialization and deinitialization strings to the terminal. It is set by default to allow command output to remain visible in the terminal even after the pager exits. Nevertheless, this prevents some pager functionality from working, in particular paged output cannot be scrolled with the mouse.

Note that setting the regular `$LESS` environment variable has no effect for less invocations by systemd tools.

See `less(1)` for more discussion.

`$SYSTEMD_LESSCHARSET`

Override the charset passed to less (by default "utf-8", if the invoking terminal is determined to be UTF-8 compatible).

Note that setting the regular `$LESSCHARSET` environment variable has no effect for less invocations by systemd tools.

`$SYSTEMD_PAGERSECURE`

Common pager commands like `less(1)`, in addition to "paging", i.e. scrolling through the output, support opening of or writing to other files and running arbitrary shell commands. When commands are invoked with elevated privileges, for example under `sudo(8)` or `pkexec(1)`, the pager becomes a security boundary. Care must be taken that only programs with strictly limited functionality are used as pagers, and unintended interactive features like opening or creation of new files or starting of subprocesses are not allowed. "Secure mode" for the pager may be enabled as described below, if the pager supports that (most pagers are not written in a way that takes this into consideration). It is recommended to either explicitly enable "secure mode" or to completely disable the pager using `--no-pager` or `PAGER=cat` when allowing untrusted users to execute commands with elevated privileges.

This option takes a boolean argument. When set to true, the "secure mode" of the pager is enabled. In "secure mode", `LESSSECURE=1` will be set when invoking the pager, which instructs the pager to disable commands that open or create new files or start new subprocesses. Currently only `less(1)` is known to understand this variable and implement "secure mode".

When set to false, no limitation is placed on the pager. Setting `SYSTEMD_PAGERSECURE=0` or not removing it from the inherited environment may allow the user to invoke arbitrary

commands.

When `$SYSTEMD_PAGERSECURE` is not set, systemd tools attempt to automatically figure out if "secure mode" should be enabled and whether the pager supports it. "Secure mode" is enabled if the effective UID is not the same as the owner of the login session, see `geteuid(2)` and `sd_pid_get_owner_uid(3)`, or when running under `sudo(8)` or similar tools (`$SUDO_UID` is set [1]). In those cases, `SYSTEMD_PAGERSECURE=1` will be set and pagers which are not known to implement "secure mode" will not be used at all. Note that this autodetection only covers the most common mechanisms to elevate privileges and is intended as convenience. It is recommended to explicitly set `$SYSTEMD_PAGERSECURE` or disable the pager.

Note that if the `$SYSTEMD_PAGER` or `$PAGER` variables are to be honoured, other than to disable the pager, `$SYSTEMD_PAGERSECURE` must be set too.

`$SYSTEMD_COLORS`

Takes a boolean argument. When true, systemd and related utilities will use colors in their output, otherwise the output will be monochrome. Additionally, the variable can take one of the following special values: "16", "256" to restrict the use of colors to the base 16 or 256 ANSI colors, respectively. This can be specified to override the automatic decision based on `$TERM` and what the console is connected to.

`$SYSTEMD_URLIFY`

The value must be a boolean. Controls whether clickable links should be generated in the output for terminal emulators supporting this. This can be specified to override the decision that systemd makes based on `$TERM` and other conditions.

SEE ALSO

`systemd(1)`, `locale(7)`, `locale.conf(5)`, `vconsole.conf(5)`, `loadkeys(1)`, `kbd(4)`, The XKB Configuration Guide[2], `systemctl(1)`, `systemd-locale.service(8)`, `systemd-firstboot(1)`

NOTES

1. It is recommended for other tools to set and check `$SUDO_UID` as appropriate, treating it is a common interface.
2. The XKB Configuration Guide

<http://www.x.org/releases/current/doc/xorg-docs/input/XKB-Config.html>