



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'login.3'

\$ man login.3

login(3) Library Functions Manual login(3)

NAME

login, logout - write utmp and wtmp entries

LIBRARY

System utilities library (libutil, -lutil)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <utmp.h>

void login(const struct utmp *ut);

int logout(const char *ut_line);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `utmp` file records who is currently using the system. The `wtmp` file records all logins and logouts. See `utmp(5)`.

The function `login()` takes the supplied struct `utmp`, `ut`, and writes it to both the `utmp` and the `wtmp` file.

The function `logout()` clears the entry in the `utmp` file again.

GNU details

More precisely, `login()` takes the argument `ut` struct, fills the field `ut->ut_type` (if there is such a field) with the value `USER_PROCESS`, and fills the field `ut->ut_pid` (if there is such a field) with the process ID of the calling process. Then it tries to fill the field `ut->ut_line`. It takes the first of `stdin`, `stdout`, `stderr` that is a terminal, and stores the corresponding pathname minus a possible leading `/dev/` into this field, and then writes the struct to the `utmp` file. On the other hand, if no terminal name was found, this field is filled with `"???"` and the struct is not written to the `utmp` file. After this, the struct

The `logout()` function searches the `utmp` file for an entry matching the `ut_line` argument. If a record is found, it is updated by zeroing out the `ut_name` and `ut_host` fields, updating the `ut_tv` timestamp field and setting `ut_type` (if there is such a field) to `DEAD_PROCESS`.

The `logout()` function returns 1 if the entry was successfully written to the database, or 0 if an error occurred.

```
/var/run/utmp
```

```
/var/log/wtmp
```

ATTRIBUTES

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

In the above table, `utent` in `race:utent` signifies that if any of the functions `setutent(3)`, `getutent(3)`, or `endutent(3)` are used in parallel in different threads of a program, then data races could occur. `login()` and `logout()` calls those functions, so we use `race:utent` to remind users.

The member `ut_user` of struct `utmp` is called `ut_name` in BSD. Therefore, `ut_name` is defined as an alias for `ut_user` in `<utmp.h>`.

BSD.

```
getutent(3), utmp(5)
```