NAME
>   **clear** − clear the terminal screen

SYNOPSIS
>   **clear** [**−x**] [**−T** *terminal-type*]
>
>   **clear −V**

DESCRIPTION
>   **clear** clears your terminal's screen and its scrollback buffer, if any. **clear** retrieves the terminal type from the environment variable *TERM*, then consults the *terminfo* terminal capability database entry for that type to determine how to perform these actions.
>
>   The capabilities to clear the screen and scrollback buffer are named "clear" and "E3", respectively. The latter is a *user-defined capability*, applying an extension mechanism introduced in *ncurses* 5.0 (1999).

OPTIONS
>   **clear** recognizes the following options.
>
>   **−T** *type*   produces instructions suitable for the terminal *type*. Normally, this option is unnecessary, because the terminal type is inferred from the environment variable *TERM*. If this option is specified, **clear** ignores the environment variables *LINES* and *COLUMNS* as well.
>
>   **−V**   reports the version of *ncurses* associated with this program and exits with a successful status.
>
>   **−x**   prevents **clear** from attempting to clear the scrollback buffer.

PORTABILITY
>   Neither IEEE Std 1003.1/The Open Group Base Specifications Issue 7 (POSIX.1-2008) nor X/Open Curses Issue 7 documents **clear**.
>
>   The latter documents **tput**, which could be used to replace this utility either via a shell script or by an alias (such as a symbolic link) to run **tput** as **clear**.

HISTORY
>   A **clear** command using the *termcap* database and library appeared in 2BSD (1979). Eighth Edition Unix (1985) later included it.
>
>   The commercial Unix arm of AT&T adapted a different BSD program (**tset**) to make a new command, **tput**, and replaced the **clear** program with a shell script that called "**tput clear**".
>
>     ```
>     /usr/bin/tput ${1:+-T$1} clear 2> /dev/null
>     exit
>     ```
>
>   In 1989, when Keith Bostic revised the BSD **tput** command to make it similar to AT&T's **tput**, he added a **clear** shell script as well.
>
>     ```
>     exec tput clear
>     ```
>
>   The remainder of the script in each case is a copyright notice.
>
>   In 1995, *ncurses*'s **clear** began by adapting BSD's original **clear** command to use *terminfo*. The **E3** extension came later.
>
>   • In June 1999, *xterm* provided an extension to the standard control sequence for clearing the screen. Rather than clearing just the visible part of the screen using
>
>     ```
>     printf '\033[2J'
>     ```
>
>   one could clear the scrollback buffer as well by using
>
>     ```
>     printf '\033[3J'
>     ```
>
>   instead. "XTerm Control Sequences" documents this feature as originating with *xterm*.
>
>   • A few other terminal emulators adopted it, such as PuTTY in 2006.

- In April 2011, a Red Hat developer submitted a patch to the Linux kernel, modifying its console driver to do the same thing. Documentation of this change, appearing in Linux 3.0, did not mention *xterm*, although that program was cited in the Red Hat bug report (#683733) motivating the feature.

- Subsequently, more terminal developers adopted the feature. The next relevant step was to change the *ncurses* **clear** program in 2013 to incorporate this extension.

- In 2013, the **E3** capability was not exercised by "**tput clear**". That oversight was addressed in 2016 by reorganizing **tput** to share its logic with **clear** and **tset**.

SEE ALSO
        tput(1), **xterm**(1), **terminfo**(5)