NAME

last, lastb − show a listing of last logged in users

SYNOPSIS

last [options] [*username*...] [*tty*...]

lastb [options] [*username*...] [*tty*...]

DESCRIPTION

last searches back through the */var/log/wtmp* file (or the file designated by the **−f** option) and displays a list of all users logged in (and out) since that file was created. One or more *usernames* and/or *ttys* can be given, in which case **last** will show only the entries matching those arguments. Names of *ttys* can be abbreviated, thus **last 0** is the same as **last tty0**.

When catching a **SIGINT** signal (generated by the interrupt key, usually control−C) or a **SIGQUIT** signal, **last** will show how far it has searched through the file; in the case of the **SIGINT** signal **last** will then terminate.

The pseudo user **reboot** logs in each time the system is rebooted. Thus **last reboot** will show a log of all the reboots since the log file was created.

lastb is the same as **last**, except that by default it shows a log of the */var/log/btmp* file, which contains all the bad login attempts.

OPTIONS

−a, **−−hostlast**

Display the hostname in the last column. Useful in combination with the **−−dns** option.

−d, **−−dns**

For non−local logins, Linux stores not only the host name of the remote host, but its IP number as well. This option translates the IP number back into a hostname.

−f, **−−file** *file*

Tell **last** to use a specific *file* instead of */var/log/wtmp*. The **−−file** option can be given multiple times, and all of the specified files will be processed.

−F, **−−fulltimes**

Print full login and logout times and dates.

−i, **−−ip**

Like **−−dns ,** but displays the host's IP number instead of the name.

−*number*; **−n, **−−limit** *number*

Tell **last** how many lines to show.

−p, **−−present** *time*

Display the users who were present at the specified time. This is like using the options **−−since** and **−−until** together with the same *time*.

−R, **−−nohostname**

Suppresses the display of the hostname field.

−s, **−−since** *time*

Display the state of logins since the specified *time*. This is useful, e.g., to easily determine who was logged in at a particular time. The option is often combined with **−−until**.

−t, **−−until** *time*
>   Display the state of logins until the specified *time*.

−−time−format *format*
>   Define the output timestamp *format* to be one of *notime*, *short*, *full*, or *iso*. The *notime* variant will not print any timestamps at all, *short* is the default, and *full* is the same as the **−−fulltimes** option. The *iso* variant will display the timestamp in ISO−8601 format. The ISO format contains timezone information, making it preferable when printouts are investigated outside of the system.

−w, **−−fullnames**
>   Display full user names and domain names in the output.

−x, **−−system**
>   Display the system shutdown entries and run level changes.

−h, **−−help**
>   Display help text and exit.

−V, **−−version**
>   Print version and exit.

TIME FORMATS

The options that take the *time* argument understand the following formats:

YYYYMMDDhhmmss	
YYYY−MM−DD hh:mm:ss	
YYYY−MM−DD hh:mm	(seconds will be set to 00)
YYYY−MM−DD	(time will be set to 00:00:00)
hh:mm:ss	(date will be set to today)
hh:mm	(date will be set to today, seconds to 00)
now	
yesterday	(time is set to 00:00:00)
today	(time is set to 00:00:00)
tomorrow	(time is set to 00:00:00)
+5min	
−5days	

FILES

>   */var/log/wtmp*, */var/log/btmp*

NOTES

      The files *wtmp* and *btmp* might not be found. The system only logs information in these files if they are present. This is a local configuration issue. If you want the files to be used, they can be created with a simple **touch**(1) command (for example, **touch /var/log/wtmp**).

      An empty entry is a valid type of wtmp entry. It means that an empty file or file with zeros is not interpreted as an error.

      The utmp file format uses fixed sizes of strings, which means that very long strings are impossible to store in the file and impossible to display by **last**. The usual limits are 32 bytes for a user and line name and 256 bytes for a hostname.

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SEE ALSO

      login(1), **wtmp**(5), **init**(8), **shutdown**(8)

REPORTING BUGS

      For bug reports, use the issue tracker at https://github.com/util−linux/util−linux/issues.

AVAILABILITY

      The **last** command is part of the util−linux package which can be downloaded from Linux Kernel Archive <https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util−linux/>.