

**NAME**

pam\_motd – Display the motd file

**SYNOPSIS**

**pam\_motd.so** [motd=*/path/filename*]

**DESCRIPTION**

pam\_motd is a PAM module that can be used to display arbitrary motd (message of the day) files after a successful login. By default the `/etc/motd` file is shown. The message size is limited to 64KB.

**OPTIONS**

**motd=***/path/filename*

The */path/filename* file is displayed as message of the day.

**motd\_dir=***/path/dirname.d*

The */path/dirname.d* directory is scanned and each file contained inside of it is displayed.

**noupdate**

Don't run the scripts in `/etc/update-motd.d` to refresh the motd file.

When no options are given, the default is to display both `/etc/motd` and the contents of `/etc/motd.d`. Specifying either option (or both) will disable this default behavior.

The **MOTD\_SHOWN=pam** environment variable is set after showing the motd files, even when all of them were silenced using symbolic links.

**MODULE TYPES PROVIDED**

Only the **session** module type is provided.

**RETURN VALUES**

PAM\_ABORT

Not all relevant data or options could be obtained.

PAM\_BUF\_ERR

Memory buffer error.

PAM\_IGNORE

This is the default return value of this module.

**EXAMPLES**

The suggested usage for `/etc/pam.d/login` is:

```
session optional pam_motd.so
```

To use a motd file from a different location:

```
session optional pam_motd.so motd=/elsewhere/motd
```

To use a motd file from elsewhere, along with a corresponding `.d` directory:

```
session optional pam_motd.so motd=/elsewhere/motd motd_dir=/elsewhere/motd.d
```

**SEE ALSO**

**motd(5)**, **pam.conf(5)**, **pam.d(5)**, **pam(7)**, **update-motd(5)**

**AUTHOR**

pam\_motd was written by Ben Collins <bcollins@debian.org>.

The **motd\_dir=** option was added by Allison Karlitskaya <allison.karlitskaya@redhat.com>.