NAME
pkttyagent − Textual authentication helper

SYNOPSIS
pkttyagent [**−−version**] [**−−help**]

pkttyagent [**−−process** { *pid* | *pid,pid−start−time* } | **−−system−bus−name** *busname*] [**−−notify−fd** *fd*]
[**−−fallback**]

DESCRIPTION
pkttyagent is used to start a textual authentication agent for the subject specified by either **−−process** or
−−system−bus−name. If neither of these options are given, the parent process is used.

To get notified when the authentication agent has been registered either listen to the Changed D−Bus signal
or use **−−notify−fd** to pass the number of a file descriptor that has been passed to the program. This file
descriptor will then be closed when the authentication agent has been successfully registered.

If **−−fallback** is used, the textual authentication agent will not replace an existing authentication agent.

RETURN VALUE
If the authentication agent could not be registered, **pkttyagent** exits with an exit code of 127. Diagnostic
messages are printed on standard error.

If one or more of the options passed are malformed, **pkttyagent** exits with an exit code of 126. If stdin is a
tty, then this manual page is also shown.

If the authentication agent was successfully registered, **pkttyagent** will keep running, interacting with the
user as needed. When its services are no longer needed, the process can be killed.

NOTES
Since process identifiers can be recycled, the caller should always use *pid,pid−start−time* when using the
−−process option. The value of *pid−start−time* can be determined by consulting e.g. the **proc**(5) file
system depending on the operating system. If only *pid* is passed to the **−−process** option, then **pkttyagent**
will look up the start time itself but note that this may be racy.

AUTHOR
Written by David Zeuthen <davidz@redhat.com> with a lot of help from many others.

BUGS
Please send bug reports to either the distribution or the polkit−devel mailing list, see the link
http://lists.freedesktop.org/mailman/listinfo/polkit-devel on how to subscribe.

SEE ALSO
polkit(8), **pkaction**(1), **pkcheck**(1), **pkexec**(1)