

NAME

write — write to another user

SYNOPSIS

write user [line]

DESCRIPTION

Write copies lines from your terminal to that of another user. When first called, it sends the message

Message from *yourname* (ln??)...

to the person you want to talk to. When it has successfully completed the connection it also sends two bells to your own terminal to indicate that what you are typing is being sent.

The recipient of the message should write back at this point. Communication continues until an end of file is read from the terminal or an interrupt is sent. At that point *write* writes 'EOT' on the other terminal and exits.

If you want to write to a user who is logged in more than once, the *line* argument may be used to indicate which line or tty to send to; otherwise the first instance of the user found in the who (/etc/utmp) file is assumed and the following message posted:

user is logged on more than one place.
You are connected to "*terminal*".
Other locations are:
terminal

Permission to write may be denied or granted by use of the *mesg* command. At the outset writing is allowed. Certain commands, in particular *nroff* and *pr* disallow messages in order to prevent messy output. However, if the user has super user permissions messages can be forced onto a write inhibited terminal.

If the character '!' is found at the beginning of a line, *write* calls the shell to execute the rest of the line as a command.

The following protocol is suggested for using *write*: when you first write to another user, wait for him or her to write back before starting to send. Each party should end each message with a distinctive signal ((o) for 'over' is conventional) that the other may reply. (oo) (for 'over and out') is suggested when conversation is about to be terminated.

FILES

/etc/utmp to find user /bin/sh to execute '!'

SEE ALSO

mail(1), mesg(1), who(1)

DIAGNOSTICS

user not logged in