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7957 # 4.36 `logger` — Log messages

7958 ## 4.36.1 Synopsis

7959 `logger` *string* ...

7960 ## 4.36.2 Description

7961 The `logger` utility saves a message, in an unspecified manner and format, con-
7962 taining the *string* operands provided by the user. The messages are expected to
7963 be evaluated later by personnel performing system administration tasks.

7964 ## 4.36.3 Options

7965 None.

7966 ## 4.36.4 Operands

7967 The following operands shall be supported by the implementation:

7968 *string* One of the string arguments whose contents are concatenated
7969 together, in the order specified, separated by single `<space>`s.

7970 ## 4.36.5 External Influences

7971 ### 4.36.5.1 Standard Input

7972 None.

7973 ### 4.36.5.2 Input Files

7974 None.

7975 ### 4.36.5.3 Environment Variables

7976 The following environment variables shall affect the execution of `logger`:

7977 **LANG** This variable shall determine the locale to use for the
7978 locale categories when both **LC_ALL** and the correspond-
7979 ing environment variable (beginning with **LC_**) do not
7980 specify a locale. See 2.6.

7981 **LC_ALL** This variable shall determine the locale to be used to over-
7982 ride any values for locale categories specified by the set-
7983 tings of **LANG** or any environment variables beginning
7984 with **LC_**.

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LC_CTYPE This variable shall determine the locale for the interpretation of sequences of bytes of text data as characters (e.g., single- versus multibyte characters in arguments).

LC_MESSAGES This variable shall determine the language in which diagnostic messages should be written.

4.36.5.4 Asynchronous Events

Default.

4.36.6 External Effects

4.36.6.1 Standard Output

None.

4.36.6.2 Standard Error

Used only for diagnostic messages.

4.36.6.3 Output Files

Unspecified.

4.36.7 Extended Description

None.

4.36.8 Exit Status

The `logger` utility shall exit with one of the following values:

0 Successful completion.

>0 An error occurred.

4.36.9 Consequences of Errors

Default.

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8007 **4.36.10 Rationale.** *(This subclause is not a part of P1003.2)*

8008 **Examples, Usage**

8009 This utility allows logging of information for later use by a system administrator
8010 or programmer in determining why noninteractive utilities have failed. POSIX. 2
8011 makes no requirements for the locations of the saved message, their format, or
8012 retention period. It also provides no method for a portable application to read
8013 messages, once written. (It is expected that the POSIX. 7 System Administration
8014 standard will have something to say about that.)

8015 The purpose of this utility might best be illustrated by an example. A batch appli-
8016 cation, running noninteractively, tries to read a configuration file and fails; it may
8017 attempt to notify the system administrator with:

8018 `logger myname: unable to read file foo. [time stamp]`

8019 The text with **LC_MESSAGES** about diagnostic messages means diagnostics from
8020 `logger` to the user or application, not diagnostic messages that the user is send-
8021 ing to the system administrator.

8022 **History of Decisions Made**

8023 Multiple *string* arguments were allowed, similar to `echo`, for ease of use.

8024 In Draft 9, the `posixlog` utility was renamed `logger` to match its BSD forebear,
8025 with which it is (downward) compatible.

8026 The working group believed strongly that some method of alerting administrators
8027 to errors was necessary. The obvious example is a batch utility, running nonin-
8028 teractively, that is unable to read its configuration files, or that is unable to create
8029 or write its results file. However, the working group did not wish to define the
8030 format or delivery mechanisms as they have historically been (and will probably
8031 continue to be) very system specific, as well as involving functionality clearly out-
8032 side of the scope of this standard.

8033 Like the utilities `mailx` and `lp`, `logger` is admittedly difficult to test. This was
8034 not deemed sufficient justification to exclude these utilities from the standard. It
8035 is also arguable that they are, in fact, testable, but that the tests themselves are
8036 not portable.

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4.37 `logname` — Return user's login name

4.37.1 Synopsis

```
logname
```

4.37.2 Description

The `logname` utility shall write the user's login name to standard output. The login name shall be the string that would be returned by the POSIX.1 {8} *getlogin* () function. Under the conditions where the *getlogin* () function would fail, the `logname` utility shall write a diagnostic message to standard error and exit with a nonzero exit status.

4.37.3 Options

None.

4.37.4 Operands

None.

4.37.5 External Influences

4.37.5.1 Standard Input

None.

4.37.5.2 Input Files

None.

4.37.5.3 Environment Variables

The following environment variables shall affect the execution of `logname`:

LANG This variable shall determine the locale to use for the locale categories when both **LC_ALL** and the corresponding environment variable (beginning with **LC_**) do not specify a locale. See 2.6.

LC_ALL This variable shall determine the locale to be used to override any values for locale categories specified by the settings of **LANG** or any environment variables beginning with **LC_**.

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