IEEE P1003.2a Draft 8 – December 1991

PS 1 Used for interactive prompts. Historically, the ‘‘super-user’’ has 7
had a prompt of "# ". Since privileges are not required to be 7
monolithic, it is difficult to define which privileges should cause 7
the alternate prompt. However, a sufficiently powerful user 7
should be reminded of that power by having an alternate prompt. 7

PS 2 Used for interactive prompts.

PS 3 Used by the KornShell for the `select` command. Since the POSIX. 2 shell does not support `select`, **PS 3** was omitted.

PS 4 Used for shell debugging. For example, the following script:

```
PS4='[${LINENO}]+ '
set -x
echo Hello
```

writes the following to standard error:

```
[3]+ echo Hello
```

RANDOM This pseudo-random number generator was not seen as being very useful to interactive users.

SECONDS Although this variable is sometimes used with **PS 1** to allow the display of the current time in the user’s prompt, it is not one that would be manipulated frequently enough by an interactive user to include in POSIX.

3.12 Shell Execution Environment

⇒ **3.12 Shell Execution Environment.** *Add another item to the list of the contents of the shell execution environment:*

— Shell aliases (see 3.3.1).

3.14.11 set — Set/unset options and positional parameters

⇒ **3.14.11 set.** *Merge the following options into the the first two synopsis lines of subclause 3.14.11 with appropriate editorial wording indicating that these options need to be supported only when the UPUO is supported:* 7

set [-bm] [-o *option*] [*argument* ...] 7
set [+bm] [+o *option*] [*argument* ...] 7

⇒ **3.14.11 set.** *Modify the contents of subclause 3.14.11 to add the following options in the correct sorted order.*

−b Cause the shell to notify the user asynchronously of background job completions. The following message shall be written to standard error:

"[%d]%c %s%s\n", *<job-number>*, *<current>*, *<status>*, *<job-name>*

where the fields shall be as follows:

<current>
The character + identifies the job that would be used as a default for the fg or bg utilities; this job can also be specified using the *job_id* %+ or %%. The character − identifies the job that would become the default if the current default job were to exit; this job can also be specified using the *job_id* %−. For other jobs, this field is a <space>. At most one job can be identified with + and at most one job can be identified with −. If there is any suspended job, then the current job shall be a suspended job. If there are at least two suspended jobs, then the previous job shall also be a suspended job.

<job-number>
A number that can be used to identify the process group to the wait, fg, bg, and kill utilities. Using these utilities, the job can be identified by prefixing the job number with %.

<status>
Unspecified.

<job-name>
Unspecified.

When the shell notifies the user a job has been completed, it may remove the job's process ID from the list of those ‘‘known in the current shell execution environment’’; see 3.9.3.1. Asynchronous