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IEEE Standards Department
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445 Hoes Lane, P.O. Box 1331
Piscataway, NJ 08855-1331, USA
+1 (908) 562-3800
+1 (908) 562-1571 [FAX]

Section 5: User Portability Utilities Option

This section describes the utilities that shall be implemented on all systems that claim conformance to the User Portability Utilities Option. Certain utilities are noted as having features that cannot be implemented on all terminal types; if the {POSIX2_CHAR_TERM} option is supported, the system shall support all such features on at least one terminal type. See 2.14.

Some of the utilities are only required on systems that also support the Software Development Utilities Option, the character-at-a-time terminal option (see 2.14) or that support the POSIX.1 {8} job control option; such utilities are so marked, directly before their Synopsis subclauses. All of the other utilities in this section are required only on systems that claim conformance to the User Portability Utilities Option.

User Portability Utilities Option Rationale. *(This subclause is not a part of P1003.2a)* **.**

All of the new utilities defined in the UPE are collected into a single large section. This was done for the practical reason that empty sections (chapters) were being held open for this work in the base POSIX.2 document. It was considered impractical to have enough empty chapters to handle all of the permutations of UPE, software development, and special terminal characteristics.

A summary of the combinations of options required for certain utilities in this section (where • indicates that the entire utility is optional unless the feature is provided and text indicates the portions that are optional):

Utility	{_POSIX2_UPE}	{_POSIX2_SW_DEV}	{_POSIX_JOB_CONTROL}	{_POSIX2_CHAR_TERM}
`bg`	•		•	
`ex`	•	`-t` option		see NOTE
`ctags`	•	•		
`fg`	•		•	
`more`	•	`-t` option		see NOTE
`nm`	•	•		
`sh`	•			see NOTE
`talk`	•			see NOTE
`vi`	•	`-t` option		•

NOTE: The `ex`, `more`, `sh`, and `talk` utilities also have terminal-related requirements that are allowed to result in error messages on some terminals (or all terminals, if {POSIX2_CHAR_TERM} is

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not supported); see their descriptions.

5.1 `alias` — Define or display aliases

5.1.1 Synopsis

`alias` [*alias-name* [=*string*] ...]

5.1.2 Description

The `alias` utility shall create or redefine alias definitions or write the values of existing alias definitions to standard output. An alias definition provides a string value that shall replace a command name when it is encountered. See 3.3.1.

An alias definition shall affect the current shell execution environment and the execution environments of the subshells of the current shell. When used as specified by this standard, the alias definition shall not affect the parent process of the current shell nor any utility environment invoked by the shell. See 3.12.

5.1.3 Options

None.

5.1.4 Operands

The following operands shall be supported by the implementation:

alias-name Write the alias definition to standard output.

alias-name =*string*
Assign the value of *string* to the alias *alias-name* .

If no operands are given, all alias definitions shall be written to standard output.

5.1.5 External Influences

5.1.5.1 Standard Input

None.

5.1.5.2 Input Files

None.

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