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leaving Annex B with only brief descriptions of the C bindings to those services.

This clause does not attempt to include everything that would be required of a language binding. The services here are those that are necessary to make use of features defined elsewhere in the standard, but that are not normally available in every language. Clearly a language that could not open, read, and write the files manipulated by the utilities in this standard would not be very useful, but this service is normally provided by any language and therefore isn't called out here. The ability to obtain values of environment variables exported from the shell, on the other hand, is not universally available, so that service is included here.

7.1 Shell Command Interface

7.1.1 Execute Shell Command

Any language binding to Language-Independent System Services shall include a facility to execute a shell command.

The language-independent specification for this facility has not been developed. The C binding for this facility is the *system* () function described in B.3.1.

7.1.2 Pipe Communications with Programs

Any language binding to Language-Independent System Services shall include a facility to execute a shell command, and to write the standard input or read the standard output of that command via a pipe.

The language-independent specification for this facility has not been developed. The C binding for this facility is the *popen* () and *pclose* () functions described in B.3.2.

7.2 Access Environment Variables

Any language binding to Language-Independent System Services shall include a facility to obtain values of environment variables, as specified in POSIX .1 {8}.

The language-independent specification for this facility has not been developed. The C binding for this facility is the *getenv* () function described in POSIX .1 {8} 4.6.1.

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