

**NAME**

**cal**, **ncal** - displays a calendar and the date of Easter

**SYNOPSIS**

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cal [-3hjMy] [-A number] [-B number] [[month] year]
cal [-3hjM] [-A number] [-B number] -m month [year]
ncal [-3hJpwy] [-A number] [-B number] [-s country_code] [[month] year]
ncal [-3hJeo] [-A number] [-B number] [year]
ncal [-CN] [-H yyyy-mm-dd] [-d yyyy-mm]
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **cal** utility displays a simple calendar in traditional format and **ncal** offers an alternative layout, more options and the date of Easter. The new format is a little cramped but it makes a year fit on a 25x80 terminal. If arguments are not specified, the current month is displayed.

The options are as follows:

- h** Turns off highlighting of today.
- J** Display Julian Calendar, if combined with the **-e** option, display date of Easter according to the Julian Calendar.
- e** Display date of Easter (for western churches).
- j** Display Julian days (days one-based, numbered from January 1).
- M** Display Monday as the first day of the week in **cal** mode.
- m *month***  
Display the specified *month*. If *month* is specified as a decimal number, it may be followed by the letter 'f' or 'p' to indicate the following or preceding month of that number, respectively.
- o** Display date of Orthodox Easter (Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches).
- p** Print the country codes and switching days from Julian to Gregorian Calendar as they are assumed by **ncal**. The country code as determined from the local environment is marked with an asterisk.
- s *country\_code***  
Assume the switch from Julian to Gregorian Calendar at the date associated with the

*country\_code*. If not specified, **ncal** tries to guess the switch date from the local environment or falls back to September 2, 1752. This was when Great Britain and her colonies switched to the Gregorian Calendar.

- w** Print the number of the week below each week column.
- y** Display a calendar for the specified year.
- 3** Display the previous, current and next month surrounding today.
- A *number***  
Display the *number* of months after the current month.
- B *number***  
Display the *number* of months before the current month.
- C** Switch to **cal** mode.
- N** Switch to **ncal** mode.
- d *yyyy-mm***  
Use *yyyy-mm* as the current date (for debugging of date selection).
- H *yyyy-mm-dd***  
Use *yyyy-mm-dd* as the current date (for debugging of highlighting).

A single parameter specifies the year (1-9999) to be displayed; note the year must be fully specified: "cal 89" will *not* display a calendar for 1989. Two parameters denote the month and year; the month is either a number between 1 and 12, or a full or abbreviated name as specified by the current locale. Month and year default to those of the current system clock and time zone (so "cal -m 8" will display a calendar for the month of August in the current year).

Not all options can be used together. For example "-3 -A 2 -B 3 -y -m 7" would mean: show me the three months around the seventh month, three before that, two after that and the whole year. **ncal** will warn about these combinations.

A year starts on January 1.

Highlighting of dates is disabled if stdout is not a tty.

**SEE ALSO**

calendar(3), strftime(3)

**STANDARDS**

The **cal** utility is compliant with the X/Open System Interfaces option of the IEEE Std 1003.1-2008 ("POSIX.1") specification.

The flags [**-3ehJMopwy**], as well as the ability to specify a month name as a single argument, are extensions to that specification.

The week number computed by **-w** is compliant with the ISO 8601 specification.

**HISTORY**

A **cal** command appeared in Version 1 AT&T UNIX. The **ncal** command appeared in FreeBSD 2.2.6.

**AUTHORS**

The **ncal** command and manual were written by Wolfgang Helbig <[helbig@FreeBSD.org](mailto:helbig@FreeBSD.org)>.

**BUGS**

The assignment of Julian-Gregorian switching dates to country codes is historically naive for many countries.

Not all options are compatible and using them in different orders will give varying results.