NAME

comsat - biff server

SYNOPSIS

comsat

DESCRIPTION

The **comsat** utility is the server process which receives reports of incoming mail and notifies users if they have requested this service. The **comsat** utility receives messages on a datagram port associated with the "biff" service specification (see services(5) and inetd(8)). The one line messages are of the form:

> *user@mailbox-offset*[:*mailbox-name*]

If the *user* specified is logged in to the system and the associated terminal has the owner execute bit turned on (by a "**biff y**"), the *offset* is used as a seek offset into the appropriate mailbox file and the first 7 lines or 560 characters of the message are printed on the user's terminal. Lines which appear to be part of the message header other than the "From", "To", "Date", or "Subject" lines are not included in the displayed message.

If the *user* specified is logged in to the system and the associated terminal has the group execute bit turned on (by a "**biff b**"), two bell characters (ASCII \007) are printed on the user's terminal.

If *mailbox-name* omitted, standard mailbox assumed.

FILES

/var/run/utx.active
                to find out who is logged on and on what terminals
/var/mail/user standard mailbox

SEE ALSO

biff(1), inetd(8)

HISTORY

The **comsat** utility appeared in 4.2BSD.

BUGS

The message header filtering is prone to error. The density of the information presented is near the theoretical minimum.

Users should be notified of mail which arrives on other machines than the one to which they are currently logged in.

The notification should appear in a separate window so it does not mess up the screen.