NAME

  finger - user information lookup program

SYNOPSIS

  finger [**-46gklmpsho**] [*user ...*] [*user@host ...*]

DESCRIPTION

  The **finger** utility displays information about the system users.

  Options are:

  -4   Forces **finger** to use IPv4 addresses only.

  -6   Forces **finger** to use IPv6 addresses only.

  -s   Display the user's login name, real name, terminal name and write status (as a ''*'' before the
            terminal name if write permission is denied), idle time, login time, and either office location and
            office phone number, or the remote host. If **-o** is given, the office location and office phone
            number is printed (the default). If **-h** is given, the remote host is printed instead.

            Idle time is in minutes if it is a single integer, hours and minutes if a '':'' is present, or days if a
            ''d'' is present. If it is an "*", the login time indicates the time of last login. Login time is
            displayed as the day name if less than 6 days, else month, day; hours and minutes, unless more
            than six months ago, in which case the year is displayed rather than the hours and minutes.

            Unknown devices as well as nonexistent idle and login times are displayed as single asterisks.

  -h   When used in conjunction with the **-s** option, the name of the remote host is displayed instead of
            the office location and office phone.

  -o   When used in conjunction with the **-s** option, the office location and office phone information is
            displayed instead of the name of the remote host.

  -g   This option restricts the gecos output to only the users' real name. It also has the side-effect of
            restricting the output of the remote host when used in conjunction with the **-h** option.

  -k   Disable all use of the user accounting database.

  -l   Produce a multi-line format displaying all of the information described for the **-s** option as well
            as the user's home directory, home phone number, login shell, mail status, and the contents of

the files *.forward*, *.plan*, *.project* and *.pubkey* from the user's home directory.

If idle time is at least a minute and less than a day, it is presented in the form ''hh:mm''. Idle times greater than a day are presented as ''d day[s]hh:mm''.

Phone numbers specified as eleven digits are printed as ''+N-NNN-NNN-NNNN''. Numbers specified as ten or seven digits are printed as the appropriate subset of that string. Numbers specified as five digits are printed as ''xN-NNNN''. Numbers specified as four digits are printed as ''xNNNN''.

If write permission is denied to the device, the phrase ''(messages off)'' is appended to the line containing the device name. One entry per user is displayed with the **-l** option; if a user is logged on multiple times, terminal information is repeated once per login.

Mail status is shown as ''No Mail.'' if there is no mail at all, ''Mail last read DDD MMM ## HH:MM YYYY (TZ)'' if the person has looked at their mailbox since new mail arriving, or ''New mail received ...'', ''Unread since ...'' if they have new mail.

-p   Prevent the **-l** option of **finger** from displaying the contents of the *.forward*, *.plan*, *.project* and *.pubkey* files.

-m   Prevent matching of *user* names. *User* is usually a login name; however, matching will also be done on the users' real names, unless the **-m** option is supplied. All name matching performed by **finger** is case insensitive.

If no options are specified, **finger** defaults to the **-l** style output if operands are provided, otherwise to the **-s** style. Note that some fields may be missing, in either format, if information is not available for them.

If no arguments are specified, **finger** will print an entry for each user currently logged into the system.

The **finger** utility may be used to look up users on a remote machine. The format is to specify a *user* as "user@host", or "@host", where the default output format for the former is the **-l** style, and the default output format for the latter is the **-s** style. The **-l** option is the only option that may be passed to a remote machine.

If the file *.nofinger* exists in the user's home directory, and the program is not run with superuser privileges, **finger** behaves as if the user in question does not exist.

The optional finger.conf(5) configuration file can be used to specify aliases. Since **finger** is invoked by fingerd(8), aliases will work for both local and network queries.

ENVIRONMENT

The **finger** utility utilizes the following environment variable, if it exists:

FINGER   This variable may be set with favored options to **finger**.

FILES

/etc/finger.conf   alias definition data base
/var/log/utx.lastlogin last login data base

SEE ALSO

chpass(1), w(1), who(1), finger.conf(5), fingerd(8)

D. Zimmerman, *The Finger User Information Protocol*, RFC 1288, December, 1991.

HISTORY

The **finger** command appeared in 3.0BSD.

BUGS

The **finger** utility does not recognize multibyte characters.