NAME

sleep - suspend execution for an interval of time

SYNOPSIS

sleep *number*[*unit*] ...

DESCRIPTION

The **sleep** command suspends execution for a minimum of *number* seconds (the default, or unit **s**), minutes (unit **m**), hours (unit **h**), or days (unit **d**). If multiple arguments are passed, the delay will be the sum of all values.

If the **sleep** command receives a signal, it takes the standard action. When the SIGINFO signal is received, the estimate of the amount of seconds left to sleep is printed on the standard output.

IMPLEMENTATION NOTES

The SIGALRM signal is not handled specially by this implementation.

The **sleep** command supports other time units than seconds, honors a non-integer number of time units to sleep in any form acceptable by strtod(3), and accepts more than one delay value. These are non-portable extensions, but they have also been implemented in GNU sh-utils since version 2.0a (released in 2002).

EXIT STATUS

The **sleep** utility exits 0 on success, and >0 if an error occurs.

EXAMPLES

To schedule the execution of a command for *x* number seconds later (with csh(1)):

```
(sleep 1800; sh command_file >& errors)&
```

This incantation would wait a half hour before running the script command_file. (See the at(1) utility.)

To reiteratively run a command (with the csh(1)):

```
while (1)
        if (! -r zzz.rawdata) then
                sleep 300
        else
                foreach i (‘ls *.rawdata‘)
                        sleep 70
```

```
                        awk -f collapse_data $i >> results
                end
                break
        endif
end
```

The scenario for a script such as this might be: a program currently running is taking longer than expected to process a series of files, and it would be nice to have another program start processing the files created by the first program as soon as it is finished (when zzz.rawdata is created). The script checks every five minutes for the file zzz.rawdata, when the file is found, then another portion processing is done courteously by sleeping for 70 seconds in between each awk job.

SEE ALSO

nanosleep(2), sleep(3)

STANDARDS

The **sleep** command is expected to be IEEE Std 1003.2 ("POSIX.2") compatible.

HISTORY

A **sleep** command appeared in Version 4 AT&T UNIX.