

**NAME**

**talk** - talk to another user

**SYNOPSIS**

**talk** *person* [*ttyname*]

**DESCRIPTION**

The **talk** utility is a visual communication program which copies lines from your terminal to that of another user.

Options available:

*person* If you wish to talk to someone on your own machine, then *person* is just the person's login name. If you wish to talk to a user on another host, then *person* is of the form 'user@host' or 'host!user' or 'host:user'.

*ttyname* If you wish to talk to a user who is logged in more than once, the *ttyname* argument may be used to indicate the appropriate terminal name, where *ttyname* is of the form 'ttyXX'.

When first called, **talk** sends the message

```
Message from TalkDaemon@his_machine...
talk: connection requested by your_name@your_machine.
talk: respond with: talk your_name@your_machine
```

to the user you wish to talk to. At this point, the recipient of the message should reply by typing

```
talk your_name@your_machine
```

It does not matter from which machine the recipient replies, as long as his login-name is the same. Once communication is established, the two parties may type simultaneously, with their output appearing in separate windows. Typing control-L '^L' will cause the screen to be reprinted. Typing control-D '^D' will clear both parts of your screen to be cleared, while the control-D character will be sent to the remote side (and just displayed by this **talk** client). Your erase, kill, and word kill characters will behave normally. To exit, just type your interrupt character; **talk** then moves the cursor to the bottom of the screen and restores the terminal to its previous state.

Permission to talk may be denied or granted by use of the mesg(1) command. At the outset talking is allowed.

**FILES**

*/etc/hosts*           to find the recipient's machine  
*/var/run/utx.active* to find the recipient's tty

**SEE ALSO**

mail(1), mesg(1), wall(1), who(1), write(1), talkd(8)

**HISTORY**

The **talk** command appeared in 4.2BSD.

In FreeBSD 5.3, the default behaviour of **talk** was changed to treat local-to-local talk requests as originating and terminating at *localhost*. Before this change, it was required that the hostname (as per *gethostname(3)*) resolved to a valid IPv4 address (via *gethostbyname(3)*), making **talk** unsuitable for use in configurations where *talkd(8)* was bound to the loopback interface (normally for security reasons).

**BUGS**

The version of **talk** released with 4.3BSD uses a protocol that is incompatible with the protocol used in the version released with 4.2BSD.

Multibyte characters are not recognized.