

NAME

logname — get session login name

SYNOPSIS

logname

DESCRIPTION

Writes the result of `getlogin(3)`, followed by a newline, to the standard output stream.

EXIT STATUS

1 if `getlogin()` failed.

SEE ALSO

`id(1)`, `who(1)`, `getlogin(3)`

STANDARDS

Conforms to IEEE Std 1003.1-2024 (“POSIX.1”) — the non-normative section specifies that it should ignore the `LOGNAME` environment variable, as the environment may be neither trusted nor consistent, but `getlogin(3)` is itself allowed to return `LOGNAME`, and some implementations do.

HISTORY

Appeared in Programmer’s Workbench (PWB/UNIX), writing **logname()** (which read it from PWB-specific per-process inherited private user data; `loginfo(II)`).

AT&T System III UNIX inherits it, but with **logname()** returning `LOGNAME`.

AT&T System V Release 1 UNIX **logname** writes `cuserid(3)` (either `getlogin(3)`, or the username of the current UID), where `getlogin(3)` reads the `utmp(5)` entry corresponding to the teletype attached the standard input, output, or error stream.

X/Open Portability Guide (“XPG”) imports AT&T System V Release 1 UNIX `getlogin(3C)`, explicitly requiring `utmp(5)` parsing.

X/Open Portability Guide Issue 2 (“XPG2”) standardises **logname** verbatim as “the user’s login name”.

IEEE Std 1003.2-1992 (“POSIX.2”) narrows it to **getlogin()** only.