

NAME

stdbuf — configure I/O buffers

SYNOPSIS

stdbuf [**-i** *size*] [**-o** **L**|*size*] [**-e** **L**|*size*] *program* [*argument*]...

DESCRIPTION

Configures `libstdbuf(3)` then executes *program arguments* with it loaded.

size is in the case-insensitive format:

[*base*][**KMGTPPEZY**][**B**] (with at least one of {*base*, **KMGTPPEZY**, **B**})

Where *base* is an optionally-floating-point number of bytes, defaulting to **1**, which is then optionally multiplied by the relevant unit. **B** sets the unit multiplier to **1000** (from **1024**). *size* is equal to $base \cdot unit^{mult}$, if any, or *base*.

If *size* works out to 0, the stream is unbuffered. If **L** (**1**) is specified, the stream is line-buffered. This is forbidden for the standard input stream as it's meaningless.

OPTIONS

-i, **--input=***size* Configures buffering for the standard input stream.
-o, **--output=****L**|*size* Configures buffering for the standard output stream.
-e, **--error=****L**|*size* Configures buffering for the standard error stream.

ENVIRONMENT

LD_PRELOAD Appended with a path to `libstdbuf(3)`. On Darwin, **DYLD_INSERT_LIBRARIES** is used and **DYLD_FORCE_FLAT_NAMESPACE=1** is set, instead.

EXIT STATUS

127 *program* wasn't found.
126 *program* exists, but couldn't be executed for a different reason.
125 an error occurred in **stdbuf**.
All others returned by *program*.

EXAMPLES

Normally, **grep** would buffer incoming CIFS connections because the output leads is a pipe. By employing **stdbuf**, each connection is displayed as soon as it lands in the log:

```
tail -f /var/log/messages | stdbuf -oL grep 'DPT=445' | cat -n
```

SEE ALSO

`libstdbuf(3)`, `ld.so(8)`

HISTORY

Originates from the GNU system, also available in FreeBSD 8.4.

The GNU system disallows lower-case **L**, *size* with **B** but without a multiplier, as well as lower-case **B**, and only supports integer *bases*.

FreeBSD supports a simplified **0|L|B|size[kmG]** buffer size spec (where **B** means **BUFSIZ**).

NetBSD 7.1 includes a similar facility natively in its Standard C Library (`libc`, `-lc`) as `STDBUF[n]=U|L|F[size]`; the example above could be re-written as

```
tail -f /var/log/messages | STDBUF1=L grep 'DPT=445' | cat -n
```