NAME

> **finger** — user information lookup program

SYNOPSIS

> **finger** [**−lmsp**] [*user ...*] [*user@host ...*]

DESCRIPTION

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

> Options are:

> **−s** **Finger** displays the user's login name, real name, terminal name and write status (as a "∗" after the terminal name if write permission is denied), idle time, login time, office location and office phone number.

> Login time is displayed as 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.

> **−l** Produces 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 ".plan", ".project", ".pgpkey" and ".forward" from the user's home directory.

> 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** Prevents the **−l** option of **finger** from displaying the contents of the ".plan", ".project" and ".pgpkey" 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.

> **Finger** 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 standard output is a socket, **finger** will emit a carriage return (^M) before every linefeed (^J). This is for processing remote finger requests when invoked by fingerd(8).

FILES

    `˜/.nofinger`   If finger finds this file in a user's home directory, it will, for finger requests originating outside the local host, firmly deny the existence of that user. For this to work, the finger program, as started by `fingerd`(8), must be able to see the `.nofinger` file. This generally means that the home directory containing the file must have the other-users-execute bit set (o+x). See `chmod`(1). If you use this feature for privacy, please test it with ''finger @localhost'' before relying on it, just in case.

    ˜/.plan

    ˜/.project

    ˜/.pgpkey   These files are printed as part of a long-format request. The `.plan` file may be arbitrarily long.

SEE ALSO

    `chfn`(1), `passwd`(1), `w`(1), `who`(1)

HISTORY

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