

NAME

mesg – display (or do not display) messages from other users

SYNOPSIS

mesg [option] [**n**]**y**

DESCRIPTION

The **mesg** utility is invoked by a user to control write access others have to the terminal device associated with standard error output. If write access is allowed, then programs such as **talk**(1) and **write**(1) may display messages on the terminal.

Traditionally, write access is allowed by default. However, as users become more conscious of various security risks, there is a trend to remove write access by default, at least for the primary login shell. To make sure your ttys are set the way you want them to be set, **mesg** should be executed in your login scripts.

The **mesg** utility silently exits with error status 2 if not executed on terminal. In this case execute **mesg** is pointless. The command line option **--verbose** forces mesg to print a warning in this situation. This behaviour has been introduced in version 2.33.

ARGUMENTS

n Disallow messages.

y Allow messages to be displayed.

If no arguments are given, **mesg** shows the current message status on standard error output.

OPTIONS

-v, --verbose
Explain what is being done.

-V, --version
Display version information and exit.

-h, --help
Display help text and exit.

EXIT STATUS

The **mesg** utility exits with one of the following values:

0 Messages are allowed.
1 Messages are not allowed.
>1 An error has occurred.

FILES

/dev/[pt]ty[pq]?

SEE ALSO

login(1), **talk**(1), **write**(1), **wall**(1), **xterm**(1)

HISTORY

A **mesg** command appeared in Version 6 AT&T UNIX.

AVAILABILITY

The mesg command is part of the util-linux package and is available from <https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>.