

NAME

look – display lines beginning with a given string

SYNOPSIS

look [**-d**] [**-f**] [**-t** *termchar*] *string* [*file*]

DESCRIPTION

The `look` utility displays any lines in *file* that contain *string* as a prefix. As `look` performs a binary search, the lines in *file* must be sorted.

If *file* is not specified, the file `/usr/share/dict/words` is used, only alphanumeric characters are compared and the case of alphabetic characters is ignored.

Options:

- d** Dictionary character set and order: only alphanumeric characters and the blank (space) character are compared.
- f** Ignore the case of alphabetic characters.
- t** *termchar* Specify a string termination character, i.e. only the characters in *string* up to and including the first occurrence of *termchar* are compared.
- w** Match only whole words rather than leading parts of words.
- V** Print the program version to standard-error and then exit.

The `look` utility exits with 0 if one or more lines were found and displayed, It exits with 1 if no lines were found, and greater than 1 if an error occurred.

FILES

`/usr/add-on/ncmp/dict/words` or `/usr/share/dict/words` are default dictionary files

SEE ALSO

`grep(1)`, `sort(1)`

COMPATIBILITY

The original manual page stated that tabs and blank characters participated in comparisons when the `d` option was specified. The current implementation only compares alphanumeric and the blank (space) character when "dictionary" order comparison is in effect (both by default and when the `d` option is specified).

HISTORY

The `LOOK` program first appeared in the UNIX System Version 7.

AUTHOR

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