

## Name

pam\_env.conf – the environment variables config file

## DESCRIPTION

The `/etc/security/pam_env.conf` file specifies the environment variables to be set, unset or modified by **pam\_env**(8). When someone logs in, this file is read and the environment variables are set according.

Each line starts with the variable name, there are then two possible options for each variable **DEFAULT** and **OVERRIDE**. **DEFAULT** allows and administrator to set the value of the variable to some default value, if none is supplied then the empty string is assumed. The **OVERRIDE** option tells pam\_env that it should enter in its value (overriding the default value) if there is one to use. **OVERRIDE** is not used, "" is assumed and no override will be done.

*VARIABLE [DEFAULT=[value]] [OVERRIDE=[value]]*

(Possibly non-existent) environment variables may be used in values using the `${string}` syntax and (possibly non-existent) PAM\_ITEMS may be used in values using the `@{string}` syntax. Both the `$` and `@` characters can be backslash escaped to be used as literal values values can be delimited with `"`, escaped `"` not supported. Note that many environment variables that you would like to use may not be set by the time the module is called. For example, `HOME` is used below several times, but many PAM applications don't make it available by the time you need it.

The `"#"` character at start of line (no space at front) can be used to mark this line as a comment line.

## EXAMPLES

These are some example lines which might be specified in `/etc/security/pam_env.conf`.

Set the `REMOTEHOST` variable for any hosts that are remote, default to "localhost" rather than not being set at all

```
REMOTEHOST      DEFAULT=localhost OVERRIDE=@{PAM_RHOST}
```

Set the `DISPLAY` variable if it seems reasonable

```
DISPLAY         DEFAULT=${REMOTEHOST}:0.0 OVERRIDE=${DISPLAY}
```

Now some simple variables

```
PAGER           DEFAULT=less
MANPAGER        DEFAULT=less
LESS            DEFAULT="M q e h15 z23 b80"
NNTPSERVER      DEFAULT=localhost
PATH            DEFAULT=${HOME}/bin:/usr/local/bin:/bin\
:/usr/bin:/usr/local/bin/X11:/usr/bin/X11
```

Silly examples of escaped variables, just to show how they work.

DOLLAR	DEFAULT=\\$	
DOLLARDOLLAR	DEFAULT=	OVERRIDE=\\${DOLLAR}
DOLLARPLUS	DEFAULT=\\${REMOTEHOST}	
ATSIGN	DEFAULT=" "	OVERRIDE=\@

## SEE ALSO

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**pam\_env(8)**, **pam.d(5)**, **pam(8)**

## AUTHOR

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pam\_env was written by Dave Kinchlea <kinch@kinch.ark.com>.