
FINGER

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INTRODUCTION

Finger is a facility for determining and displaying information about other users running Xerox LISP. It displays the user's name, the Etherhostname (or the octal net address when no nameserver is available) and the user's idle time (time since last keystroke or mouseaction). Only other users who have the finger server loaded will be displayed. Users can specify the net radius to query, a list specifying only which users they want displayed, or similarly, only which hosts are to be displayed.

Loading Finger begins the finger server (which responds to queries). To display finger information, the following top-level function is provided:

(FINGER WHO HOST HOPS ICON?)

[Function]

WHO is an optional list of usernames specifying which people are to be displayed if a response is received. *who* defaults to **FINGER.CROWD**, initially **NIL** meaning display all responses.

HOST is an optional list of etherhostnames analogous to *WHO*. Specifying both *WHO* and *HOST* denotes union. *HOST* defaults to **NIL**, denoting all hosts.

HOPS specifies the net radius to query. 0 specifies only nets to which you are directly connected. *hops* defaults to **FINGER.NET.HOPS**, initially 2.

ICON? specifies whether initial display should be the finger icon



or a display window. *ICON?* defaults to **NIL** meaning display. {typically, in an init file the call would be **(FINGER NIL NIL NIL T)**}.

The display window is updated each time the users bugs the display window with left or middle mouse button, and when most window operations are performed on the display window (shape, repaint, expand from icon, etc.). Right button retains the standard window menu.

Options:

the following are user specifiable variables affecting the operation of Finger.

FINGER.ICON.POSITION a position indicating the original position for the icon. Initially (900,500).

FINGER.DISPLAY.POSITION a position indicating the original position for the display window. Initially (650,325).

FINGER.DISPLAY.HEIGHT height of the display window. Initially 140. The display width is correct for the display format and need not be changed.

FINGER.TIMEOUT milliseconds to wait for the last response packet. Initially 1500.

FINGER.NET.HOPS net radius to be queried.

FINGER.CROWD list of potential users to be displayed (discussed above).

FINGER.INFINITY.MINUTES number of minutes to be considered infinite idle time. Initially 90.

Additional functions of interest to the user are:

(END.FINGER) which kills the finger server process, closes the sockets, closes the windows, etc.

(FINGER.SERVER) will start a finger server process.