

Termcap

? Termcap was superseded by the Terminfo database.

The Terminal Capability Database is a software library and database used on Unix-like operating systems.

Its purpose is to provide a portable way for applications to interact with different kinds of terminals (especially older hardware terminals) without hardcoding terminal control sequences like clearing the screen or moving the cursor.

Each terminal type (e.g. "xterm", "vt100", "linux") supports different escape sequences to do things like:

- Move the cursor
- Clear the screen
- Change text color
- Handle special keys

Termcap stores these escape sequences in a database that can be queried using functions like:

- `"tgetent()", "tgetstr()", "tgetflag()", "tgetnum()"...`

These functions allows instructions like: "I want to move the cursor" → Termcap tells the program how to do that on the current terminal.