

**NAME**

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

**SYNOPSIS**

**msg** [*option*] [*n*]*y*

**DESCRIPTION**

The **msg** 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, **msg** should be executed in your login scripts.

The **msg** utility silently exits with error status 2 if not executed on terminal. In this case execute **msg** is pointless. The command line option **--verbose** forces msg 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, **msg** shows the current message status on standard error output.

**OPTIONS**

**-v, --verbose**

Explain what is being done.

**-h, --help**

Display help text and exit.

**-V, --version**

Print version and exit.

**EXIT STATUS**

The **msg** 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*]?

**HISTORY**

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

**SEE ALSO**

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

**REPORTING BUGS**

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at <https://github.com/util-linux/util-linux/issues>.

**AVAILABILITY**

The **msg** command is part of the util-linux package which can be downloaded from [Linux Kernel Archive](https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/) <<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>>.