

NAME

pam_motd – Display the motd file

SYNOPSIS

pam_motd.so [motd=*/path/filename*] [motd_dir=*/path/dirname.d*]

DESCRIPTION

pam_motd is a PAM module that can be used to display arbitrary motd (message of the day) files after a successful login. By default, pam_motd shows files in the following locations:

```
/etc/motd
/run/motd
/usr/lib/motd
/etc/motd.d/
/run/motd.d/
/usr/lib/motd.d/
```

Each message size is limited to 64KB.

If /etc/motd does not exist, then /run/motd is shown. If /run/motd does not exist, then /usr/lib/motd is shown.

Similar overriding behavior applies to the directories. Files in /etc/motd.d/ override files with the same name in /run/motd.d/ and /usr/lib/motd.d/. Files in /run/motd.d/ override files with the same name in /usr/lib/motd.d/.

Files in the directories listed above are displayed in lexicographic order by name.

To silence a message, a symbolic link with target /dev/null may be placed in /etc/motd.d with the same filename as the message to be silenced. Example: Creating a symbolic link as follows silences /usr/lib/motd.d/my_motd.

ln -s /dev/null /etc/motd.d/my_motd

The **MOTD_SHOWN=pam** environment variable is set after showing the motd files, even when all of them were silenced using symbolic links.

OPTIONS

motd=*/path/filename*

The /path/filename file is displayed as message of the day. Multiple paths to try can be specified as a colon-separated list. By default this option is set to /etc/motd:/run/motd:/usr/lib/motd.

motd_dir=*/path/dirname.d*

The /path/dirname.d directory is scanned and each file contained inside of it is displayed. Multiple directories to scan can be specified as a colon-separated list. By default this option is set to /etc/motd.d:/run/motd.d:/usr/lib/motd.d.

noupdate

Don't run the scripts in /etc/update-motd.d to refresh the motd file.

When no options are given, the default behavior applies for both options. Specifying either option (or both) will disable the default behavior for both options.

MODULE TYPES PROVIDED

Only the **session** module type is provided.

RETURN VALUES

PAM_ABORT

Not all relevant data or options could be obtained.

PAM_BUF_ERR

Memory buffer error.

PAM_IGNORE

This is the default return value of this module.

EXAMPLES

The suggested usage for /etc/pam.d/login is:

```
session optional pam_motd.so
```

To use a motd file from a different location:

```
session optional pam_motd.so motd=/elsewhere/motd
```

To use a motd file from elsewhere, along with a corresponding .d directory:

```
session optional pam_motd.so motd=/elsewhere/motd motd_dir=/elsewhere/motd.d
```

SEE ALSO

motd(5), **pam.conf(5)**, **pam.d(5)**, **pam(7)**, **update-motd(5)**

AUTHOR

pam_motd was written by Ben Collins <bcollins@debian.org>.

The **motd_dir=** option was added by Allison Karlitskaya <allison.karlitskaya@redhat.com>.