NAME
catopen, catclose − open/close a message catalog

LIBRARY
Standard C library (*libc*, *−lc*)

SYNOPSIS
#include <nl_types.h>

nl_catd catopen(const char **name***, int** *flag***);**
int catclose(nl_catd *catalog***);**

DESCRIPTION
The function **catopen**() opens a message catalog and returns a catalog descriptor. The descriptor remains valid until **catclose**() or **execve**(2). If a file descriptor is used to implement catalog descriptors, then the **FD_CLOEXEC** flag will be set.

The argument *name* specifies the name of the message catalog to be opened. If *name* specifies an absolute path (i.e., contains a '/'), then *name* specifies a pathname for the message catalog. Otherwise, the environment variable **NLSPATH** is used with *name* substituted for **%N** (see **locale**(7)). It is unspecified whether **NLSPATH** will be used when the process has root privileges. If **NLSPATH** does not exist in the environment, or if a message catalog cannot be opened in any of the paths specified by it, then an implementation defined path is used. This latter default path may depend on the **LC_MESSAGES** locale setting when the *flag* argument is **NL_CAT_LOCALE** and on the **LANG** environment variable when the *flag* argument is 0. Changing the **LC_MESSAGES** part of the locale may invalidate open catalog descriptors.

The *flag* argument to **catopen**() is used to indicate the source for the language to use. If it is set to **NL_CAT_LOCALE**, then it will use the current locale setting for **LC_MESSAGES**. Otherwise, it will use the **LANG** environment variable.

The function **catclose**() closes the message catalog identified by *catalog*. It invalidates any subsequent references to the message catalog defined by *catalog*.

RETURN VALUE
The function **catopen**() returns a message catalog descriptor of type *nl_catd* on success. On failure, it returns *(nl_catd) −1* and sets *errno* to indicate the error. The possible error values include all possible values for the **open**(2) call.

The function **catclose**() returns 0 on success, or −1 on failure.

ENVIRONMENT
LC_MESSAGES
May be the source of the **LC_MESSAGES** locale setting, and thus determine the language to use if *flag* is set to **NL_CAT_LOCALE**.

LANG   The language to use if *flag* is 0.

ATTRIBUTES
For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see **attributes**(7).

Interface	Attribute	Value
catopen()	Thread safety	MT-Safe env
catclose()	Thread safety	MT-Safe

STANDARDS
POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008.

NOTES
The above is the POSIX.1 description. The glibc value for **NL_CAT_LOCALE** is 1. The default path varies, but usually looks at a number of places below */usr/share/locale*.

SEE ALSO
      catgets(3), **setlocale**(3)

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