NAME

textlock – password-lock a terminal

SYNOPSIS

textlock [**-h**]

tlpasswd

AVAILABILITY

This program will not run on an ASCII terminal which is smaller than 40 columns by 15 rows.

DESCRIPTION

The **textlock** utility locks an ASCII terminal until the user who invoked it enters their password at the keyboard. While the terminal is locked, a clock is displayed at random locations on the screen. If a key is pressed, the program displays a dialog box in which the user is expected to enter their password. If an invalid password is entered, or if no input is received after a certain amount of time, the program reverts back to the clock display. The program cannot be interrupted with any of the keyboard-generated interrupts (for example, control-C, break, control-Z, and control-Y).

By default, the user's system password will unlock the display. However, the user may specify an alternate password to use for unlocking the display by running the **tlpasswd** program. This program asks for a new password and stores an encrypted version of the password in the file *.textlock* in the user's home directory. **textlock** reverts to verifying against the user's system password only if the *.textlock* file does not exist.

OPTIONS

Without any options, **textlock** immediately locks the screen. With the *-h* option, it displays usage and credits information.

Several key commands are available in the password editing box. These are summarized below ('ˆ' denotes the 'CONTROL' key).

Backspace, Delete, or Left-Arrow

Any of these keys will delete the character to the left of the cursor.

ˆU or Clear-Line

These keys will clear the entire editing line and reposition the cursor at the beginning.

ˆL or Refresh

These keys will cause the entire screen to be refreshed. This option is useful if a password entry is interrupted by a broadcast message.

Return or Enter

These keys will accept the current entry.

Space-Bar

This key will abort the input and return to the clock display.

ˆT   This is an escape code that specifies that the following keycode should be treated literally. This is useful for entering passwords that contain embedded control characters. Any character may be entered after a ˆT, including another ˆT.

The **tlpasswd** utility accepts no options.

NOTES

Due to the security concerns posed by a user entering his or her password into a running program, **textlock** takes some precautions about handling this information. A static buffer is used to hold the user's password input, and this buffer is erased immediately after the input is encrypted for comparison against the actual encrypted password.

Another security problem would arise if **textlock** were to dump core immediately after the user entered their password, since the core file (process image) could be examined to find the password. To prevent this

from happening, **textlock** reroutes every signal which could cause a core dump to a special signal handler. This handler zeroes the input buffer and then exits gracefully. In most cases this will prevent a core dump altogether.

FILES
      /etc/passwd   to get password and user information

      ˜/.textlock   to get encrypted textlock password

SEE ALSO
      xlock(1)

BUGS
The **tlpasswd** program may not properly handle the input of control characters and escape sequences as part of a password. Additionally, only the first 8 characters of the password are significant.

AUTHOR
Mark Lindner <markl@gnu.org>