

NAME

shift – adjust Shell arguments

SYNOPSIS

shift [digit]

DESCRIPTION

Shift is used in Shell command files to shift the argument list left by 1, so that old **\$2** can now be referred to by **\$1** and so forth. *Shift* is useful to iterate over several arguments to a command file. For example, the command file

```
while "$1"
    pr -3 $1
    shift
end
```

prints each of its arguments in 3-column format.

Shift is executed within the Shell.

The optional argument causes *shift* to leave shell arguments numbered lower than *\$digit* alone on shifts; *shift* alone and *shift 1* are identical in effect.

SEE ALSO

sh(I)