

NAME

rsh – restricted shell (command interpreter)

SYNOPSIS

rsh [**-x**] [**-**] [**-ct**] [name [arg1 ...]]

DESCRIPTION

Rsh is a restricted version of the standard command interpreter *sh(I)*. It is used to set up login names or execution environments whose capabilities are more controlled than that of the standard shell. The actions of *rsh* are identical to those of *sh*, except for the following restrictions:

- 1) *chdir* is not allowed.
- 2) changes to the shell variable '\$p' are not permitted.
- 3) it is illegal to use '/' in the name of a command.
- 4) *next* is not permitted.
- 5) '>' and '>>' are disallowed.

These restrictions combine to lock a user into the login directory, limit the set of invokable commands to those found in directories included in the '.path' file, and eliminate the direct creation or modification of files. When a command to be executed is found to be a shell procedure, *rsh* invokes *sh* to execute it. Thus, it is possible to write shell procedures using the full power of the standard shell, while the end user is restricted to a limited menu of commands.

Rsh is actually just a link to *sh*.

FILES

/etc/glob, which interprets '*', '?', and '['.
/dev/null as a source of end-of-file.
.path in login directory to initialize \$p.
.profile in login directory for general initialization.
/etc/sha for accounting information.

SEE ALSO

sh(I)

BUGS

It would be better to have a flag for *opt* which changed *sh* into *rsh* dynamically. With a non-interruptable '.profile', it would be possible to act as *sh*, use *chdir* (for example), and then change into *rsh* at the end of initialization.