

NAME

mail — send mail to designated users

SYNOPSIS

mail [-yn] [person ...]

mail -f file

DESCRIPTION

Mail with no argument searches for a file called **.mail**, prints it in reverse chronological order if it is nonempty, then asks if it should be saved. If the answer is **y**, the mail is added to **mbox**. In either case, **.mail** is truncated to zero length. To leave **.mail** untouched, hit 'delete.' The question can be answered on the command line with the argument **-y** or **-n**.

Mail tries to use **.mail** and **mbox** in the current directory. But if **.mail** doesn't exist, *mail* uses **.mail** and **mbox** in your *login* directory instead.

When *persons* are named, *mail* takes the standard input up to an end-of-file (or a line with just '.') and adds it to each *person's* **.mail** file. The message is preceded by the sender's name and a postmark. A *person* is a user name recognized by *login*(I). Mail is sent to the *login* directory of that user.

The **-f** option causes the named file to be printed as if it were mail.

When a user logs in he is informed of the presence of mail.

To receive mail, a **.mail** file must exist in your *login* directory, and it must be writable by everyone. However, it need not be readable by everyone.

FILES

/etc/passwd	to identify sender and locate persons
mbox	saved mail
/tmp/m????	temp file

SEE ALSO

write(I)