

**NAME**

read, write – simple microblogging

**SYNOPSIS**

```
mb/read [ -pr ] [ -h url ] [ user ]
mb/write [ -d ] [ -h url ] [ text ... ]
```

**DESCRIPTION**

These *rc(1)* scripts are simple clients for reading and writing on microblogs, that is, short message publication services that implement the so-called *Twitter* API.

*Read* prints on the standard output a microblog user *user*'s "Personal Timeline" at the API root URL *url*. In the absence of *-h*, the value of the environment variable *mbapiurl*, if any, is used. If no *user* is given, the environment variable *mbuser* is consulted. If *\$mbuser* is in turn empty, *\$user* is presumed as the remote user name. Under *-r*, *read* prints only replies sent to the *user*. Option *-p* prints the entire "Public Timeline".

*Write* publishes *text* to the microblog service at the API root *url*. If *-h* is omitted, *write* uses the value of the environment variable *mbapiurl* for the service URL. If *text* is not given, a single line is read from standard input. The *-d* flag prints the server response (in XML format) on standard error.

Both programs query *factotum(4)* for authentication as needed.

**EXAMPLE**

Read the Identi.ca home timeline of screenname *glenda*:

```
mb/read -h https://identi.ca/api glenda
```

Read the Twitter home timeline of the authenticated user:

```
mb/read -h http://api.supertweet.net/1
```

**SOURCE**

/rc/bin/mb

**SEE ALSO**

*hget(1)*, *read* in *cat(1)*

<http://status.net>, "StatusNet"

<http://apiwiki.twitter.com>, "Twitter API Wiki"

<http://www.supertweet.net>, "Twitter API Proxy"

**DIAGNOSTICS**

*Write* refuses *text* <1 or >140 runes, exiting with status *length*.

**BUGS**

The *user* argument and the *mbuser* environment variable have no effect when *reading* Twitter via the known API proxy, which exposes only an authenticated user's timelines.