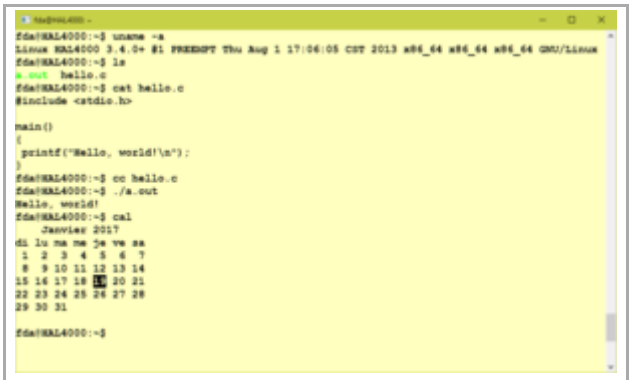
cal (Unix)

cal is a standard program on Unix and Unix-like operating systems that prints an ASCII calendar of the given month or year. If the user does not specify any command-line options, `cal` will print a calendar of the current month.

Contents

- Implementations
- Examples
- Quirks (1752)
- See also
- References
- External links

cal



The `cal` command as shown in a Linux Bash session in Windows 10

Developer(s)	Charles Dye
Initial release	November 3, 1971
Operating system	Unix, Unix-like, Plan 9, Inferno, MSX-DOS, FreeDOS
Platform	Cross-platform
Type	Command

Implementations

The `cal` command was present in 1st Edition Unix.

A `cal` command is also part of ASCII's *MSX-DOS2 Tools* for MSX-DOS version 2.[1] It is also available for FreeDOS.[2]

Examples

```
$ cal
      March 1984
 Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
              1  2  3
  4  5  6  7  8  9 10
 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
```

```
$ cal -3 (shows the previous, current and next month)
     March 2021           April 2021            May 2021
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
    1  2  3  4  5  6                  1  2  3                  1
 7  8  9 10 11 12 13   4  5  6  7  8  9 10   2  3  4  5  6  7  8
14 15 16 17 18 19 20  11 12 13 14 15 16 17   9 10 11 12 13 14 15
21 22 23 24 25 26 27  18 19 20 21 22 23 24  16 17 18 19 20 21 22
28 29 30 31           25 26 27 28 29 30     23 24 25 26 27 28 29
                                            30 31
```

```
$ cal 2021
                              2021
      January               February                March
```

```
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
                1  2      1  2  3  4  5  6      1  2  3  4  5  6
 3  4  5  6  7  8  9   7  8  9 10 11 12 13   7  8  9 10 11 12 13
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  14 15 16 17 18 19 20  14 15 16 17 18 19 20
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  21 22 23 24 25 26 27  21 22 23 24 25 26 27
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  28                    28 29 30 31
31

        April                   May                    June
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
             1  2  3                     1            1  2  3  4  5
 4  5  6  7  8  9 10   2  3  4  5  6  7  8   6  7  8  9 10 11 12
11 12 13 14 15 16 17   9 10 11 12 13 14 15  13 14 15 16 17 18 19
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  16 17 18 19 20 21 22  20 21 22 23 24 25 26
25 26 27 28 29 30     23 24 25 26 27 28 29  27 28 29 30
                      30 31

         July                  August                 September
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
             1  2  3   1  2  3  4  5  6  7               1  2  3  4
 4  5  6  7  8  9 10   8  9 10 11 12 13 14   5  6  7  8  9 10 11
11 12 13 14 15 16 17  15 16 17 18 19 20 21  12 13 14 15 16 17 18
18 19 20 21 22 23 24  22 23 24 25 26 27 28  19 20 21 22 23 24 25
25 26 27 28 29 30 31  29 30 31              26 27 28 29 30

       October               November               December
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa  Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
                1  2      1  2  3  4  5  6               1  2  3  4
 3  4  5  6  7  8  9   7  8  9 10 11 12 13   5  6  7  8  9 10 11
10 11 12 13 14 15 16  14 15 16 17 18 19 20  12 13 14 15 16 17 18
17 18 19 20 21 22 23  21 22 23 24 25 26 27  19 20 21 22 23 24 25
24 25 26 27 28 29 30  28 29 30              26 27 28 29 30 31
31
```

```
$ cal 5 2014
      May 2014
Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa
             1  2  3
 4  5  6  7  8  9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17
18 19 20 21 22 23 24
25 26 27 28 29 30 31
```

Quirks (1752)

```
$ cal 9 1752
   September 1752
 S  M Tu  W Th  F  S
       1  2 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23
24 25 26 27 28 29 30
```

The Gregorian calendar reform was adopted by the Kingdom of Great Britain, including its possessions in North America (later to become eastern USA and Canada), in September 1752. As a result, the September 1752 cal shows the adjusted days missing. This month was the official (British) adoption of the Gregorian calendar from the previously used Julian calendar. This has been documented in the man pages for Sun Solaris as follows. "An unusual calendar is printed for September 1752. That is the month when 11 days were skipped to make up for lack of leap year adjustments."[3] The Plan 9 from Bell Labs manual states: "Try `cal sep 1752`." Date of adoption of the reform differs widely between countries so, for some users, this feature may be a bug.

See also

- Cron – process for scheduling jobs to run on a particular date
- List of Unix commands

References

1. "MSX-DOS2 Tools User's Manual - MSX-DOS2 TOOLS ユーザーズマニュアル" (http://archive.org/details/MSXDOS2TOOLS). April 1, 1993 – via Internet Archive.
2. "ibiblio.org FreeDOS Package -- cal (Unix-like)" (https://www.ibiblio.org/pub/micro/pc-stuff/freedos/files/distributions/1.2/repos/pkg-html/cal.html). *www.ibiblio.org*.
3. "Synopsis - man pages section 1: User Commands" (https://docs.oracle.com/cd/E26502_01/html/E29030/cal-1.html#scrolltoc). *docs.oracle.com*.

- `cal (https://www.opengroup.org/onlinepubs/9699919799/utilities/cal.html)`: print a calendar – Commands & Utilities Reference, The Single UNIX Specification, Issue 7 from The Open Group

External links

- `cal(1) (https://9p.io/magic/man2html/1/cal)` – Plan 9 Programmer's Manual, Volume 1
- `cal(1) (http://man.cat-v.org/inferno/1/cal)` – Inferno General commands Manual
- `cal(1) (https://linux.die.net/man/1/cal)` – Linux User Commands Manual
- `cal(1) (https://www.freebsd.org/cgi/man.cgi?query=cal&sektion=1)` – FreeBSD General Commands Manual
- `cal(1) (https://man.netbsd.org/cal.1)` – NetBSD General Commands Manual
- `cal(1) (https://man.openbsd.org/cal.1)` – OpenBSD General Commands Manual
- Source of explanation of cal 9 1752 phenomena (https://web.archive.org/web/20160221144829/http://www.csd.uwo.ca/staff/magi/personal/humour/Computer_Audience/'cal%209%201752'%20explained.html) (humor)

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