## NAME

**environ** - user environment

## SYNOPSIS

*extern char **environ*;

## DESCRIPTION

An array of strings, called the *environment* is made available to each process by execve(2) when a process begins. By convention these strings have the form *name=value*, and are referred to as "environment variables". A process can query, update, and delete these strings using the getenv(3), setenv(3), and unsetenv(3) functions, respectively. The shells also provide commands to manipulate the environment; they are described in the respective shell manual pages.

What follows is a list of environment variables typically seen on a UNIX system. It includes only those variables that a user can expect to see during their day-to-day use of the system, and is far from complete. Environment variables specific to a particular program or library function are documented in the *ENVIRONMENT* section of the appropriate manual page.

## ENVIRONMENT

BLOCKSIZE — The size of the block units used by several disk-related commands, most notably df(1), du(1) and ls(1). BLOCKSIZE may be specified in units of a byte by specifying a number, in units of a kilobyte by specifying a number followed by ‘K’ or ‘k’, in units of a megabyte by specifying a number followed by ‘M’ or ‘m’, and in units of a gigabyte by specifying a number followed by ‘G’ or ‘g’. Sizes less than 512 bytes or greater than a gigabyte are ignored. This variable is processed by the getbsize(3) function.

COLUMNS — The user’s preferred width in column positions for the terminal. Utilities such as ls(1) and who(1) use this to format output into columns. If unset or empty, utilities will use an ioctl(2) call to ask the terminal driver for the width.

EDITOR — Default editor name.

EXINIT — A startup list of commands read by ex(1) and vi(1).

HOME — A user’s login directory, set by login(1) from the password file passwd(5).

LANG — This variable configures all programs which use setlocale(3) to use the specified locale unless the LC_* variables are set.

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|---|---|
| LC_ALL | Overrides the values of LC_COLLATE, LC_CTYPE, LC_MESSAGES, LC_MONETARY, LC_NUMERIC, LC_TIME and LANG. |
| LC_COLLATE | Locale to be used for ordering of strings. |
| LC_CTYPE | Locale to be used for character classification (letter, space, digit, etc.) and for interpreting byte sequences as multibyte characters. |
| LC_MESSAGES | Locale to be used for diagnostic messages. |
| LC_MONETARY | Locale to be used for interpreting monetary input and formatting output. |
| LC_NUMERIC | Locale to be used for interpreting numeric input and formatting output. |
| LC_TIME | Locale to be used for interpreting dates input and for formatting output. |
| MAIL | The location of the user’s mailbox instead of the default in /var/mail, used by mail(1), sh(1), and many other mail clients. |
| MANPATH | The sequence of directories, separated by colons, searched by man(1) when looking for manual pages. |
| NLSPATH | List of directories to be searched for the message catalog referred to by LC_MESSAGES. See catopen(3). |
| PAGER | Default paginator program. The program specified by this variable is used by mail(1), man(1), ftp(1), etc, to display information which is longer than the current display. |
| PATH | The sequence of directories, separated by colons, searched by csh(1), sh(1), system(3), execvp(3), etc, when looking for an executable file. PATH is set to ‘‘/usr/bin:/bin’’ initially by login(1). |
| POSIXLY_CORRECT | When set to any value, this environment variable modifies the behaviour of certain commands to (mostly) execute in a strictly POSIX-compliant manner. |
| PRINTER | The name of the default printer to be used by lpr(1), lpq(1), and lprm(1). |
| PWD | The current directory pathname. |

SHELL — The full pathname of the user's login shell.

TERM — The kind of terminal for which output is to be prepared. This information is used by commands, such as nroff(1) (*ports/textproc/groff*) or plot(1) which may exploit special terminal capabilities. See */usr/share/misc/termcap* (termcap(5)) for a list of terminal types.

TERMCAP — The string describing the terminal in TERM, or, if it begins with a '/', the name of the termcap file. See TERMPATH below, and termcap(5).

TERMPATH — A sequence of pathnames of termcap files, separated by colons or spaces, which are searched for terminal descriptions in the order listed. Having no TERMPATH is equivalent to a TERMPATH of *$HOME/.termcap:/etc/termcap*. TERMPATH is ignored if TERMCAP contains a full pathname.

TMPDIR — The directory in which to store temporary files. Most applications use either */tmp* or */var/tmp*. Setting this variable will make them use another directory.

TZ — The timezone to use when displaying dates. The normal format is a pathname relative to */usr/share/zoneinfo*. For example, the command

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env TZ=America/Los_Angeles date
```

displays the current time in California. See tzset(3) for more information.

USER — The login name of the user. It is recommended that portable applications use LOGNAME instead.

Further names may be placed in the environment by the **export** command and *name=value* arguments in sh(1), or by the **setenv** command if you use csh(1). It is unwise to change certain sh(1) variables that are frequently exported by *.profile* files, such as MAIL, PS1, PS2, and IFS, unless you know what you are doing.

The current environment variables can be printed with env(1), set(1) or printenv(1) in sh(1) and env(1), printenv(1) or the **printenv** built-in command in csh(1).

## SEE ALSO

cd(1), csh(1), env(1), ex(1), login(1), printenv(1), sh(1), execve(2), execle(3), getbsize(3), getenv(3), setenv(3), setlocale(3), system(3), termcap(3), termcap(5)

**HISTORY**

The **environ** manual page appeared in Version 7 AT&T UNIX.