

NAME

mkstr - create an error message file by massaging C source

SYNOPSIS

mkstr [-] *msgfile prefix file ...*

DESCRIPTION

The **mkstr** utility creates a file containing error messages extracted from C source, and restructures the same C source, to utilize the created error message file. The intent of **mkstr** was to reduce the size of large programs and reduce swapping (see *BUGS* section below).

The **mkstr** utility processes each of the specified files, placing a restructured version of the input in a file whose name consists of the specified *prefix* and the original name. A typical usage of **mkstr** is

```
mkstr pistrings xx *.c
```

This command causes all the error messages from the C source files in the current directory to be placed in the file *pistrings* and restructured copies of the sources to be placed in files whose names are prefixed with "xx".

Options:

- Error messages are placed at the end of the specified message file for recompiling part of a large **mkstred** program.

The **mkstr** utility finds error messages in the source by searching for the string 'error("' in the input stream. Each time it occurs, the C string starting at the "" is stored in the message file followed by a null character and a new-line character; The new source is restructured with lseek(2) pointers into the error message file for retrieval.

```
char efilename = "/usr/lib/pi_strings";
int efil = -1;

error(a1, a2, a3, a4)
{
    char buf[256];

    if (efil < 0) {
        efil = open(efilename, 0);
        if (efil < 0)
```

```
        err(1, "%s", efilename);
    }
    if (lseek(efil, (off_t)a1, SEEK_SET) < 0 ||
        read(efil, buf, 256) <= 0)
        err(1, "%s", efilename);
    printf(buf, a2, a3, a4);
}
```

SEE ALSO

gencat(1), xstr(1), lseek(2)

HISTORY

The **mkstr** utility first appeared in 1BSD.

AUTHORS

Bill Joy and Chuck Haley, 1977.

BUGS

The **mkstr** utility was intended for the limited architecture of the PDP 11 family. Very few programs actually use it. The memory savings are negligible in modern computers.