

NAME

pty - old-style compatibility pseudo-terminal driver

SYNOPSIS

device **pty**

DESCRIPTION

The **pty** driver provides support for the traditional BSD naming scheme that was used for accessing pseudo-terminals before it was replaced by pts(4). This traditional naming is still used in Linux. When the device */dev/ptyXX* is being opened, a new terminal shall be created with the pts(4) driver. A device node for this terminal shall be created, which has the name */dev/ttyXX*.

The **pty** driver also provides a cloning System V */dev/ptmx* device.

New code should not try to allocate pseudo-terminals using this interface. It is only provided for compatibility with older C libraries that tried to open such devices when `posix_openpt(2)` was being called, and for running Linux binaries.

FILES

The BSD-style compatibility pseudo-terminal driver uses the following device names:

/dev/pty[l-sL-S][0-9a-v] Pseudo-terminal master devices.

/dev/tty[l-sL-S][0-9a-v] Pseudo-terminal slave devices.

/dev/ptmx Control device, returns a file descriptor to a new master pseudo-terminal when opened.

DIAGNOSTICS

None.

SEE ALSO

`posix_openpt(2)`, `pts(4)`, `tty(4)`

HISTORY

A pseudo-terminal driver appeared in 4.2BSD.

BUGS

Unlike previous implementations, the master and slave device nodes are destroyed when the PTY becomes unused. A call to `stat(2)` on a nonexistent master device will already cause a new master device

node to be created. The master device can only be destroyed by opening and closing it.

The **pty** driver cannot be unloaded, because it cannot determine if it is being used.