NAME

    sticky - sticky text and append-only directories

DESCRIPTION

    A special file mode, called the *sticky bit* (mode S_ISTXT), is used to indicate special treatment for directories. It is ignored for regular files. See chmod(2) or the file *<sys/stat.h>* for an explanation of file modes.

STICKY DIRECTORIES

    A directory whose 'sticky bit' is set becomes an append-only directory, or, more accurately, a directory in which the deletion of files is restricted. A file in a sticky directory may only be removed or renamed by a user if the user has write permission for the directory and the user is the owner of the file, the owner of the directory, or the super-user. This feature is usefully applied to directories such as */tmp* which must be publicly writable but should deny users the license to arbitrarily delete or rename each others' files.

    Any user may create a sticky directory. See chmod(1) for details about modifying file modes.

HISTORY

    A **sticky** command appeared in Version 7 AT&T UNIX/32V.

BUGS

    Neither open(2) nor mkdir(2) will create a file with the sticky bit set.