NAME

    talk - talk to another user

SYNOPSIS

    talk *person* [*ttyname*]

DESCRIPTION

    The **talk** utility is a visual communication program which copies lines from your terminal to that of another user.

    Options available:

    person   If you wish to talk to someone on your own machine, then *person* is just the person's login name. If you wish to talk to a user on another host, then *person* is of the form 'user@host' or 'host!user' or 'host:user'.

    ttyname If you wish to talk to a user who is logged in more than once, the *ttyname* argument may be used to indicate the appropriate terminal name, where *ttyname* is of the form 'ttyXX'.

    When first called, **talk** sends the message
        Message from TalkDaemon@his_machine...
        talk: connection requested by your_name@your_machine.
        talk: respond with: talk your_name@your_machine

    to the user you wish to talk to. At this point, the recipient of the message should reply by typing

        talk your_name@your_machine

    It does not matter from which machine the recipient replies, as long as his login-name is the same. Once communication is established, the two parties may type simultaneously, with their output appearing in separate windows. Typing control-L '^L' will cause the screen to be reprinted. Typing control-D '^D' will clear both parts of your screen to be cleared, while the control-D character will be sent to the remote side (and just displayed by this **talk** client). Your erase, kill, and word kill characters will behave normally. To exit, just type your interrupt character; **talk** then moves the cursor to the bottom of the screen and restores the terminal to its previous state.

    Permission to talk may be denied or granted by use of the mesg(1) command. At the outset talking is allowed.

FILES

/etc/hosts   to find the recipient's machine
/var/run/utx.active to find the recipient's tty

SEE ALSO

mail(1), mesg(1), wall(1), who(1), write(1), talkd(8)

HISTORY

The **talk** command appeared in 4.2BSD.

In FreeBSD 5.3, the default behaviour of **talk** was changed to treat local-to-local talk requests as originating and terminating at *localhost*. Before this change, it was required that the hostname (as per gethostname(3)) resolved to a valid IPv4 address (via gethostbyname(3)), making **talk** unsuitable for use in configurations where talkd(8) was bound to the loopback interface (normally for security reasons).

BUGS

The version of **talk** released with 4.3BSD uses a protocol that is incompatible with the protocol used in the version released with 4.2BSD.

Multibyte characters are not recognized.