

**NAME**

locale - get locale-specific information

**SYNOPSIS**

```
locale [option]  
locale [option] -a  
locale [option] -m  
locale [option] name...
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **locale** command displays information about the current locale, or all locales, on standard output.

When invoked without arguments, **locale** displays the current locale settings for each locale category (see [locale\(5\)](#)), based on the settings of the environment variables that control the locale (see [locale\(7\)](#)).

If either the **-a** or the **-m** option (or one of their long-format equivalents) is specified, the behavior is as follows:

**-a, --all-locales**

Display a list of all available locales. The **-v** option causes the **LC\_IDENTIFICATION** metadata about each locale to be included in the output.

**-m, --charmaps**

Display the available charmaps (character set description files).

The *locale* command can also be provided with one or more arguments, which are the names of locale keywords (for example, *date\_fmt*, *ctype-class-names*, *yesexpr*, or *decimal\_point*) or locale categories (for example, **LC\_CTYPE** or **LC\_TIME**). For each argument, the following is displayed:

- \* For a locale keyword, the value of that keyword to be displayed.
- \* For a locale category, the values of all keywords in that category are displayed.

When arguments are supplied, the following options are meaningful:

**-c, --category-name**

For a category name argument, write the name of the locale category on a separate line preceding the list of keyword values for that category.

For a keyword name argument, write the name of the locale category for this keyword on a separate line preceding the keyword value.

This option improves readability when multiple name arguments are specified. It can be combined with the **-k** option.

**-k, --keyword-name**

For each keyword whose value is being displayed, include also the name of that keyword, so that the output has the format:

*keyword=value*

The *locale* command also knows about the following options:

**-v, --verbose**

Display additional information for some command-line option and argument combinations.

**-?, --help**

Display a summary of command-line options and arguments and exit.

- usage**  
Display a short usage message and exit.
- V, --version**  
Display the program version and exit.

## FILES

- /usr/lib/locale/locale-archive*  
Usual default locale archive location.
- /usr/share/i18n/locales*  
Usual default path for locale definition files.

## CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008.

## EXAMPLE

```
$ locale
LANG=en_US.UTF-8
LC_CTYPE=en_US.UTF-8
LC_NUMERIC=en_US.UTF-8
LC_TIME=en_US.UTF-8
LC_COLLATE=en_US.UTF-8
LC_MONETARY=en_US.UTF-8
LC_MESSAGES=en_US.UTF-8
LC_PAPER=en_US.UTF-8
LC_NAME=en_US.UTF-8
LC_ADDRESS=en_US.UTF-8
LC_TELEPHONE=en_US.UTF-8
LC_MEASUREMENT=en_US.UTF-8
LC_IDENTIFICATION=en_US.UTF-8
LC_ALL=

$ locale date_fmt
%a %b %e %H:%M:%S %Z %Y

$ locale -k date_fmt
date_fmt=%a %b %e %H:%M:%S %Z %Y

$ locale -ck date_fmt
LC_TIME
date_fmt=%a %b %e %H:%M:%S %Z %Y

$ locale LC_TELEPHONE
+%c (%a) %l
(%a) %l
11
1
UTF-8

$ locale -k LC_TELEPHONE
tel_int_fmt=+%c (%a) %l
tel_dom_fmt=(%a) %l
int_select=11
int_prefix=1
telephone-codeset=UTF-8
```

The following example compiles a custom locale from the *./wrk* directory with the [localedef\(1\)](#) utility under the *HOME/.locale* directory, then tests the result with the [date\(1\)](#) command, and then sets the environment variables **LOCPATH** and **LANG** in the shell profile file so that the

custom locale will be used in the subsequent user sessions:

```
$ mkdir -p $HOME/.locale
$ I18NPATH=./wrk/ localedef -f UTF-8 -i fi_SE $HOME/.locale/fi_SE.UTF-8
$ LOCPATH=$HOME/.locale LC_ALL=fi_SE.UTF-8 date
$ echo export LOCPATH=$HOME/.locale >> $HOME/.bashrc
$ echo export LANG=fi_SE.UTF-8 >> $HOME/.bashrc
```

## SEE ALSO

[localedef\(1\)](#), [charmap\(5\)](#), [locale\(5\)](#), [locale\(7\)](#)

## COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.74 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.