

**NAME**

catopen, catclose - open/close a message catalog

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <nl_types.h>
```

```
nl_catd catopen(const char *name, int flag);
```

```
int catclose(nl_catd catalog);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The function **catopen()** opens a message catalog and returns a catalog descriptor. The descriptor remains valid until **catclose()** or **execve(2)**. If a file descriptor is used to implement catalog descriptors, then the **FD\_CLOEXEC** flag will be set.

The argument *name* specifies the name of the message catalog to be opened. If *name* specifies an absolute path (i.e., contains a '/'), then *name* specifies a pathname for the message catalog. Otherwise, the environment variable **NLSPATH** is used with *name* substituted for %N (see [locale\(7\)](#)). It is unspecified whether **NLSPATH** will be used when the process has root privileges. If **NLSPATH** does not exist in the environment, or if a message catalog cannot be opened in any of the paths specified by it, then an implementation defined path is used. This latter default path may depend on the **LC\_MESSAGES** locale setting when the *flag* argument is **NL\_CAT\_LOCALE** and on the **LANG** environment variable when the *flag* argument is 0. Changing the **LC\_MESSAGES** part of the locale may invalidate open catalog descriptors.

The *flag* argument to **catopen()** is used to indicate the source for the language to use. If it is set to **NL\_CAT\_LOCALE**, then it will use the current locale setting for **LC\_MESSAGES**. Otherwise, it will use the **LANG** environment variable.

The function **catclose()** closes the message catalog identified by *catalog*. It invalidates any subsequent references to the message catalog defined by *catalog*.

**RETURN VALUE**

The function **catopen()** returns a message catalog descriptor of type *nl\_catd* on success. On failure, it returns (*nl\_catd*) -1 and sets *errno* to indicate the error. The possible error values include all possible values for the [open\(2\)](#) call.

The function **catclose()** returns 0 on success, or -1 on failure.

**ENVIRONMENT****LC\_MESSAGES**

May be the source of the **LC\_MESSAGES** locale setting, and thus determine the language to use if *flag* is set to **NL\_CAT\_LOCALE**.

**LANG** The language to use if *flag* is 0.

**CONFORMING TO**

POSIX.1-2001.

**NOTES**

The above is the POSIX.1-2001 description. The glibc value for **NL\_CAT\_LOCALE** is 1. The default path varies, but usually looks at a number of places below */usr/share/locale*.

**SEE ALSO**

[catgets\(3\)](#), [setlocale\(3\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

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