

NAME

login, logout - write utmp and wtmp entries

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <utmp.h>

void login(const struct utmp *ut);

int logout(const char *ut_line);
```

Link with *-lutil*.

DESCRIPTION

The utmp file records who is currently using the system. The wtmp file records all logins and logouts. See [utmp\(5\)](#).

The function **login()** takes the supplied *struct utmp*, *ut*, and writes it to both the utmp and the wtmp file.

The function **logout()** clears the entry in the utmp file again.

GNU details

More precisely, **login()** takes the argument *ut* struct, fills the field *ut->ut_type* (if there is such a field) with the value **USER_PROCESS**, and fills the field *ut->ut_pid* (if there is such a field) with the process ID of the calling process. Then it tries to fill the field *ut->ut_line*. It takes the first of *stdin*, *stdout*, *stderr* that is a terminal, and stores the corresponding pathname minus a possible leading */dev/* into this field, and then writes the struct to the utmp file. On the other hand, if no terminal name was found, this field is filled with *???* and the struct is not written to the utmp file. After this, the struct is written to the wtmp file.

The **logout()** function searches the utmp file for an entry matching the *ut_line* argument. If a record is found, it is updated by zeroing out the *ut_name* and *ut_host* fields, updating the *ut_tv* timestamp field and setting *ut_type* (if there is such a field) to **DEAD_PROCESS**.

RETURN VALUE

The **logout()** function returns 1 if the entry was successfully written to the database, or 0 if an error occurred.

FILES

/var/run/utmp
user accounting database, configured through **_PATH_UTMP** in *<paths.h>*

/var/log/wtmp
user accounting log file, configured through **_PATH_WTMP** in *<paths.h>*

CONFORMING TO

Not in POSIX.1-2001. Present on the BSDs.

NOTES

Note that the member *ut_user* of *struct utmp* is called *ut_name* in BSD. Therefore, *ut_name* is defined as an alias for *ut_user* in *<utmp.h>*.

SEE ALSO

[getutent\(3\)](#), [utmp\(5\)](#)

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/>.