NAME

environ — user environment

DESCRIPTION

An array of strings called the "environment" is made available by *exec*(2) when a process begins. By convention, these strings have the form "name=value". The following names are used by various commands:

PATH The sequence of directory prefixes that *sh*(1), *time*(1), *nice*(1), *nohup*(1), etc., apply in searching for a file known by an incomplete path name. The prefixes are separated by colons (:). *Login*(1) sets **PATH=:/bin:/usr/bin**.

SHELL

The name of the shell which is executed upon escaping from some interactive commands (such as *ed*(1) and *mail*(1)) and used by the *execvp*(3C) and *system*(3S) library routines.

HOME

Name of the user's login directory, set by *login*(1) from the password file *passwd*(5).

TERM

The kind of terminal for which output is to be prepared. This information is used by commands, such as *mm*(1) or *plot*(1G), which may exploit special capabilities of that terminal.

Further names may be placed in the environment by the *export* command and "name=value" arguments in *sh*(1), or by *exec*(2). It is unwise to conflict with certain shell variables that are frequently exported by **.profile** files: **MAIL, PS1, PS2, IFS**.

SEE ALSO

env(1), login(1), sh(1), exec(2), getenv(3C), profile(5)