

NAME

last, **lastb** – show a listing of last logged in users

SYNOPSIS

last [options] [*username...*] [*tty...*]

lastb [options] [*username...*] [*tty...*]

DESCRIPTION

last searches back through the */var/log/wtmp* file (or the file designated by the **-f** option) and displays a list of all users logged in (and out) since that file was created. One or more *usernames* and/or *ttys* can be given, in which case **last** will show only the entries matching those arguments. Names of *ttys* can be abbreviated, thus **last 0** is the same as **last tty0**.

When catching a SIGINT signal (generated by the interrupt key, usually control-C) or a SIGQUIT signal, **last** will show how far it has searched through the file; in the case of the SIGINT signal **last** will then terminate.

The pseudo user **reboot** logs in each time the system is rebooted. Thus **last reboot** will show a log of all the reboots since the log file was created.

lastb is the same as **last**, except that by default it shows a log of the */var/log/btmp* file, which contains all the bad login attempts.

OPTIONS

-a, --hostlast

Display the hostname in the last column. Useful in combination with the **--dns** option.

-d, --dns

For non-local logins, Linux stores not only the host name of the remote host, but its IP number as well. This option translates the IP number back into a hostname.

-f, --file file

Tell **last** to use a specific *file* instead of */var/log/wtmp*. The **--file** option can be given multiple times, and all of the specified files will be processed.

-F, --fulltimes

Print full login and logout times and dates.

-i, --ip

Like **--dns**, but displays the host's IP number instead of the name.

-number

-n, --limit number

Tell **last** how many lines to show.

-p, --present time

Display the users who were present at the specified time. This is like using the options **--since** and **--until** together with the same *time*.

-R, --nohostname

Suppresses the display of the hostname field.

-s, --since time

Display the state of logins since the specified *time*. This is useful, e.g., to easily determine who was logged in at a particular time. The option is often combined with **--until**.

-t, --until time

Display the state of logins until the specified *time*.

--time-format format

Define the output timestamp *format* to be one of *notime*, *short*, *full*, or *iso*. The *notime* variant will not print any timestamps at all, *short* is the default, and *full* is the same as the **--fulltimes** option. The *iso* variant will display the timestamp in ISO-8601 format. The ISO format contains timezone information, making it preferable when printouts are investigated outside of the system.

-w, --fullnames

Display full user names and domain names in the output.

-x, --system

Display the system shutdown entries and run level changes.

TIME FORMATS

The options that take the *time* argument understand the following formats:

YYYYMMDDhhmmss

YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss

YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm (seconds will be set to 00)

YYYY-MM-DD (time will be set to 00:00:00)

hh:mm:ss (date will be set to today)

hh:mm (date will be set to today, seconds to 00)

now

yesterday (time is set to 00:00:00)

today (time is set to 00:00:00)

tomorrow (time is set to 00:00:00)

+5min

-5days

NOTES

The files *wtmp* and *btmp* might not be found. The system only logs information in these files if they are present. This is a local configuration issue. If you want the files to be used, they can be created with a simple [touch\(1\)](#) command (for example, `touch /var/log/wtmp`).

FILES

/var/log/wtmp

/var/log/btmp

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AVAILABILITY

The last command is part of the util-linux package and is available from [Linux Kernel Archive](#).

SEE ALSO

[login\(1\)](#), [wtmp\(5\)](#), [init\(8\)](#), [shutdown\(8\)](#)