NAME
mesg − display (or do not display) messages from other users

SYNOPSIS
mesg [option] [**n**|**y**]

DESCRIPTION
The **mesg** utility is invoked by a user to control write access others have to the terminal device associated with standard error output. If write access is allowed, then programs such as **talk(1)** and write(1) may display messages on the terminal.

Traditionally, write access is allowed by default. However, as users become more conscious of various security risks, there is a trend to remove write access by default, at least for the primary login shell. To make sure your ttys are set the way you want them to be set, **mesg** should be executed in your login scripts.

The **mesg** utility silently exits with error status 2 if the current standard error output does not refer to the terminal. In this case execute **mesg** is pointless. The command line option **−−verbose** forces mesg to print a warning in this situation. This behaviour has been introduced in version 2.33.

ARGUMENTS
n   Disallow messages.

y   Allow messages to be displayed.

If no arguments are given, **mesg** shows the current message status on standard error output.

OPTIONS
−v, **−−verbose**
Explain what is being done.

−V, **−−version**
Display version information and exit.

−h, **−−help**
Display help text and exit.

EXIT STATUS
The **mesg** utility exits with one of the following values:

0   Messages are allowed.

1   Messages are not allowed.

>1   An error has occurred.

FILES
/dev/[pt]ty[pq]?

SEE ALSO
login(1), **talk(1),** write(1), wall(1), **xterm(1)**

HISTORY
A **mesg** command appeared in Version 6 AT&T UNIX.

AVAILABILITY
The mesg command is part of the util-linux package and is available from https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/.