

NAME

pfortune – print fortune cookie

SYNOPSIS

pfortune [-hln] [-p *pipe*] [-t *template*] [-d *directory ...*] [*db_name ...*]

pfortune -i *file* [*file ...*]

DESCRIPTION

The **pfortune** utility selects a random fortune from one of the fortune databases specified as arguments and prints it to standard output or to a named pipe.

The first form of the command prints out a random fortune, either to standard output or, when running in daemon mode, to a named pipe (FIFO).

The second form of the command is used to create index files for the fortune data files specified as arguments. Fortune data files have a base name is the name of the corresponding fortune data file.

Fortune data files consist of blocks of word-wrapped text delimited by lines containing only a percent ('%') character. A fortune data file and its associated fortune index file together comprise a fortune database. Fortune databases must be indexed before they can be used.

The program compiles a list of available fortune database files based on the fortune database directories specified on the command line. If no directories are specified, **pfortune** attempts to scan the default library directory for fortune databases (for example, '/usr/local/share/misc/tools/databases/').

A fortune database will be selected at random from the list of databases found, and then a fortune will be selected at random from that database. The user may restrict the list of candidate databases by listing their names on the command line. A complete list of names of available databases can be obtained by using the **-l** switch.

OPTIONS

-h Display a command synopsis and copyright message.

-l List the names of all databases found, and exit.

-d *directory*

Scan *directory* for fortune databases. Any fortune database files found within the directory will be added to the database list. This switch can occur multiple times.

-i Generate (or re-generate) index files for all of the listed fortune databases.

-p *pipe*

Run as a daemon, listening on a named pipe. Output will be written to the FIFO file *pipe* whenever another process opens the file for reading.

-t *template*

Specify a *template* file for output. The output will consist of the contents of the template file, with a random fortune substituted in place of the token '@FORTUNE@' where it appears on a line by itself in the template file.

-n Print an extra blank line (a newline character) following the fortune.

NOTES

The maximum size of a fortune data file is 2Gb (2**31 bytes).

Fortune index files should be generally portable among systems where a file offset (*off_t*) is defined as a 32-bit integer value. Data is stored in an index file in network byte order.

SEE ALSO

ranline(1), largefile(5)

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