NAME

vacation – return “I am not here” indication

SYNOPSIS

vacation –i [**–r** *interval*] [**–x**] **vacation** [**–a** *alias*] [**–f** *database*] [**–m** *message*] [**–s** *address*] [**–t** *time*] [**–z**] *login*

DESCRIPTION

Vacation returns a message to the sender of a message telling them that you are currently not reading your mail. The intended use is in a *.forward* file. For example, your *.forward* file might have:

\eric, "|/usr/bin/vacation -a allman eric"

which would send messages to you (assuming your login name was eric) and reply to any messages for “eric” or “allman”.

Available options:

–a *alias*
: Handle messages for in the same manner as those received for the user’s login name.

–f *filename*
: Use *filename* as name of the database instead of *~/.vacation.db*. Unless the *filename* starts with / it is relative to ~.

–i
: Initialize the vacation database files. It should be used before you modify your *.forward* file.

–m *filename*
: Use *filename* as name of the file containing the message to send instead of *~/.vacation.msg*. Unless the *filename* starts with / it is relative to ~.

–r *interval*
: Set the reply interval to *interval* days. The default is one week. An interval of “0” or “infinite” (actually, any non-numeric character) will never send more than one reply.

–s *address*
: Use *address* instead of the sender address in the *From* line to determine the reply address.

–t *time*
: Ignored, available only for compatibility with Sun’s vacation program.

–x
: reads an exclusion list from stdin (one address per line). Mails coming from an address in this exclusion list won’t get a reply by **vacation**. It is possible to exclude complete domains by specifying “@domain” as element of the exclusion list.

–z
: Set the sender of the vacation message to “<>” instead of the user. This probably violates the RFCs since vacation messages are not required by a standards-track RFC to have a null reverse-path.

No message will be sent unless *login* (or an *alias* supplied using the **–a** option) is part of either the “To:” or “Cc:” headers of the mail. No messages from “???-REQUEST”, “Postmaster”, “UUCP”, “MAILER”, or “MAILER-DAEMON” will be replied to (where these strings are case insensitive) nor is a notification sent if a “Precedence: bulk” or “Precedence: junk” line is included in the mail headers. The people who have sent you messages are maintained as a db(3) database in the file *.vacation.db* in your home directory.

Vacation expects a file *.vacation.msg*, in your home directory, containing a message to be sent back to each sender. It should be an entire message (including headers). For example, it might contain:

```
From: eric@CS.Berkeley.EDU (Eric Allman)
Subject: I am on vacation
Delivered-By-The-Graces-Of: The Vacation program
Precedence: bulk

I am on vacation until July 22. If you have something urgent,
please contact Keith Bostic <bostic@CS.Berkeley.EDU>.
--eric
```

Vacation reads the first line from the standard input for a UNIX ‘‘From’’ line to determine the sender. Sendmail(8) includes this ‘‘From’’ line automatically.

Fatal errors, such as calling **vacation** with incorrect arguments, or with non-existent *login*s, are logged in the system log file, using syslog(8).

FILES

˜/.vacation.db	database file
˜/.vacation.msg	message to send

SEE ALSO

sendmail(8), syslog(8)

HISTORY

The **vacation** command appeared in 4.3BSD.