## NAME

fmtmsg – display a message on stderr or system console

## SYNOPSIS

**fmtmsg** [ **–c** *class* ] [ **–u** *subclass* ] [ **–l** *label* ] [ **–s** *severity* ] [ **–t** *tag* ] [ **–a** *action* ] *text*

## AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

## DESCRIPTION

Based on a message's classification component, **fmtmsg** either writes a formatted message to **stderr** or writes a formatted message to the console.

A formatted message consists of up to five standard components (see environment variable **MSGVERB** in the **ENVIRONMENT** section of this page.) The classification and subclass components are not displayed as part of the standard message, but rather define the source of the message and direct the display of the formatted message.

## OPTIONS

**–c** *class* Describes the source of the message. Valid keywords are:

- **hard** The source of the condition is hardware.
- **soft** The source of the condition is software.
- **firm** The source of the condition is firmware.

**–u** *subclass* A list of keywords (separated by commas) that further defines the message and directs the display of the message. Valid keywords are:

- **appl** The condition originated in an application. This keyword should not be used in combination with either **util** or **opsys**.
- **util** The condition originated in a utility. This keyword should not be used in combination with either **appl** or **opsys**.
- **opsys** The message originated in the kernel. This keyword should not be used in combination with either **appl** or **util**.
- **recov** The application will recover from the condition. This keyword should not be used in combination with **nrecov**.
- **nrecov** The application will not recover from the condition. This keyword should not be used in combination with **recov**.
- **print** Print the message to the standard error stream **stderr**.
- **console** Write the message to the system console. **print**, **console**, or both may be used.

**–l** *label* Identifies the source of the message.

**–s** *severity* Indicates the seriousness of the error. The keywords and definitions of the standard levels of *severity* are:

- **halt** The application has encountered a severe fault and is halting.
- **error** The application has detected a fault.
- **warn** The application has detected a condition that is out of the ordinary and might be a problem.
- **info** The application is providing information about a condition that is not in error.

**–t** *tag* The string containing an identifier for the message.

**–a** *action* A text string describing the first step in the error recovery process. This string must be written so that the entire *action* argument is interpreted as a single argument. **fmtmsg** precedes each action string with the **TO FIX:** prefix.

*text* A text string describing the condition. Must be written so that the entire *text* argument is interpreted as a single argument.

## EXAMPLES

Example 1: The following example of **fmtmsg** produces a complete message in the standard message format and displays it to the standard error stream:

**example% fmtmsg –c soft –u recov,print,appl –l UX:cat –s error -t UX:cat:001 –a "refer to manual" "invalid syntax"**

produces:

**UX:cat: ERROR: invalid syntax**
**TO FIX: refer to manual UX:cat:138**

Example 2: When the environment variable **MSGVERB** is set as follows:

**MSGVERB=severity:text:action**

and Example 1 is used, **fmtmsg** produces:

**ERROR: invalid syntax**
**TO FIX: refer to manual**

Example 3: When the environment variable **SEV_LEVEL** is set as follows:

**SEV_LEVEL=note,5,NOTE**

the following **fmtmsg** command:

**example% fmtmsg –c soft –u print –l UX:cat –s note –a "refer to manual" "invalid syntax"**

produces:

**NOTE: invalid syntax**
**TO FIX: refer to manual**

and displays the message on **stderr**.

## ENVIRONMENT

The environment variables **MSGVERB** and **SEV_LEVEL** control the behavior of fmtmsg. **MSGVERB** is set by the administrator in the **/etc/profile** for the system. Users can override the value of **MSGVERB** set by the system by resetting **MSGVERB** in their own **.profile** files or by changing the value in their current shell session. **SEV_LEVEL** can be used in shell scripts.

**MSGVERB** tells **fmtmsg** which message components to select when writing messages to **stderr**. The value of **MSGVERB** is a colon separated list of optional keywords. **MSGVERB** can be set as follows:

**MSGVERB=**[*keyword*[**:***keyword*[**:**...]]]
**export MSGVERB**

Valid *keywords* are: **label**, **severity**, **text**, **action**, and **tag**. If **MSGVERB** contains a keyword for a component and the component's value is not the component's null value, **fmtmsg** includes that component in the message when writing the message to **stderr**. If **MSGVERB** does not include a keyword for a message component, that component is not included in the display of the message. The keywords may appear in any order. If **MSGVERB** is not defined, if its value is the null string, if its value is not of the correct format, or if it contains keywords other than the valid ones listed above, **fmtmsg** selects all components.

**MSGVERB** affects only which message components are selected for display. All message components are included in console messages.

**SEV_LEVEL** defines severity levels and associates print strings with them for use by **fmtmsg**. The standard severity levels shown below cannot be modified. Additional severity levels can be defined, redefined, and removed.

**0** (no severity is used)
**1** HALT
**2** ERROR
**3** WARNING
**4** INFO

**SEV_LEVEL** is set as follows:

**SEV_LEVEL=**[*description*[**:***description*[**:**...]]]
**export SEV_LEVEL**

*description* is a comma-separated list containing three fields:

*description***=***severity_keyword***,***level***,***printstring*

*severity_keyword* is a character string used as the keyword with the **−s** *severity* option to **fmtmsg**.

*level* is a character string that evaluates to a positive integer (other than **0**, **1**, **2**, **3**, or **4**, which are reserved for the standard severity levels). If the keyword *severity_keyword* is used, *level* is the severity value passed on to **fmtmsg**(3C).

*printstring* is the character string used by **fmtmsg** in the standard message format whenever the severity value *level* is used.

If **SEV_LEVEL** is not defined, or if its value is null, no severity levels other than the defaults are available. If a *description* in the colon separated list is not a comma separated list containing three fields, or if the second field of a comma separated list does not evaluate to a positive integer, that *description* in the colon separated list is ignored.

## EXIT CODES

The exit codes for **fmtmsg** are the following:

**0** All the requested functions were executed successfully.

**1** The command contains a syntax error, an invalid option, or an invalid argument to an option.

**2** The function executed with partial success, however the message was not displayed on **stderr**.

**4** The function executed with partial success, however the message was not displayed on the system console.

**32** No requested functions were executed successfully.

## SEE ALSO

**addseverity**(3C), **fmtmsg**(3C)