NAME

gencat – generate a formatted message catalog

SYNOPSIS

gencat *catfile msgfile*. . .

AVAILABILITY

SUNWloc

DESCRIPTION

The **gencat** command merges the message text source file(s) *msgfile* into a formatted message database *catfile*. The database *catfile* is created if it does not already exist. If *catfile* does exist, its messages are included in the new *catfile*. If set and message numbers collide, the new message-text defined in *msgfile* replaces the old message text currently contained in *catfile*. The message text source file (or set of files) input to **gencat** can contain either set and message numbers or simply message numbers, in which case the set **NL_SETD** (see **nl_types**(5)) is assumed.

Message Text Source File Format

The format of a message text source file is defined as follows. Note that the fields of a message text source line are separated by a single ASCII space or tab character. Any other ASCII spaces or tabs are considered as part of the subsequent field.

$set *n comment*
: Where *n* specifies the set identifier of the following messages until the next **$set**, **$delset**, or end-of-file appears. *n* must be a number in the range (**1**–{**NL_SETMAX**}). Set identifiers within a single source file need not be contiguous. Any string following the set identifier is treated as a comment. If no **$set** directive is specified in a message text source file, all messages are located in the default message set **NL_SETD**.

$delset *n comment*
: Deletes message set *n* from an existing message catalog. Any string following the set number is treated as a comment. (Note: if *n* is not a valid set it is ignored.)

$ *comment*
: A line beginning with a dollar symbol **$** followed by an ASCII space or tab character is treated as a comment.

m message-text
: The *m* denotes the message identifier, a number in the range (**1**-{**NL_MSGMAX**}). The *message-text* is stored in the message catalog with the set identifier specified by the last **$set** directive, and with message identifier *m*. If the *message-text* is empty, and an ASCII space or tab field separator is present, an empty string is stored in the message catalog. If a message source line has a message number, but neither a field separator nor *message-text*, the existing message with that number (if any) is deleted from the catalog. Message identifiers need not be contiguous. The length of *message-text* must be in the range (**0**–{**NL_TEXTMAX**}).

$quote *c* — This line specifies an optional quote character *c*, which can be used to surround *message-text* so that trailing spaces or null (empty) messages are visible in a message source line. By default, or if an empty **$quote** directive is supplied, no quoting of *message-text* will be recognized.

Empty lines in a message text source file are ignored.

Text strings can contain the special characters and escape sequences defined in the following table:

Description	Symbol	Sequence
newline	NL(LF)	\n
horizontal tab	HT	\t
vertical tab	VT	\v
backspace	BS	\b
carriage return	CR	\r
form feed	FF	\f
backslash	\	\\
bit pattern	ddd	\ddd

The escape sequence *ddd* consists of backslash followed by 1, 2 or 3 octal digits, which are taken to specify the value of the desired character. If the character following a backslash is not one of those specified, the backslash is ignored.

Backslash followed by an ASCII newline character is also used to continue a string on the following line. Thus, the following two lines describe a single message string:

```
1 This line continues \
to the next line
```

which is equivalent to:

```
1 This line continues to the next line
```

OPERANDS

The following operands are supported:

catfile — A path name of the formatted message catalogue. If – is specified, standard output is used.

msgfile — A path name of a message text source file. If – is specified for an instance of *msgfile*, standard input is used. The format of message text source files is defined in **Message Text Source File Format**.

ENVIRONMENT

See **environ**(5) for descriptions of the following environment variables that affect the execution of **gencat**: **LC_CTYPE**, **LC_MESSAGES**, and **NLSPATH**.

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 — Successful completion.

>0 — An error occurred.

SEE ALSO

mkmsgs(1), **catgets**(3C), **catopen**(3C), **gettxt**(3C), **environ**(5), **nl_types**(5)