NAME

message – puts its arguments on FMLI message line

SYNOPSIS

message [**–t**] [**–b** [*num*]] [**–o**] [**–w**] [*string*]
message [**–f**] [**–b** [*num*]] [**–o**] [**–w**] [*string*]
message [**–p**] [**–b** [*num*]] [**–o**] [**–w**] [*string*]

DESCRIPTION

The **message** command puts *string* out on the FMLI message line. If there is no string, the *stdin* input to **message** will be used. The output of **message** has a duration (length of time it remains on the message line). The default duration is "transient": it or one of two other durations can be requested with the mutually-exclusive options below.

Messages displayed with **message** –**p** will replace (change the value of) any message currently displayed or stored via use of the **permanentmsg** descriptor. Likewise, **message** –**f** will replace any message currently displayed or stored via use of the **framemsg** descriptor. If more than one message in a frame definition file is specified with the **-p** option, the last one specified will be the permanent duration message.

The *string* argument should always be the last argument.

OPTIONS

–t Explicitly defines a message to have transient duration. Transient messages remain on the message line only until the user presses another key or a **CHECKWORLD** occurs. The descriptors **itemmsg , fieldmsg , invalidmsg , choicemsg ,** the default-if-not-defined value of **oninterrupt ,** and FMLI generated error messages (that is, from syntax errors) also output transient duration messages. Transient messages take precedence over both frame messages and permanent messages.

–f Defines a message to have "frame" duration. Frame messages remain on the message line as long as the frame in which they are defined is current. The descriptor **framemsg** also outputs a frame duration message. Frame messages take precedence over permanent messages.

–p Defines a message to have "permanent" duration. Permanent messages remain on the message line for the length of the FMLI session, unless explicitly replaced by another permanent message or temporarily superseded by a transient message or frame message. A permanent message is not affected by navigating away from, or by closing, the frame which generated the permanent message. The descriptor **permanentmsg** also outputs a permanent duration message.

–b*[num]* Rings the terminal bell *num* times, where *num* is an integer from 1 to 10. The default value is 1. If the terminal has no bell, the screen will flash *num* times instead, if possible.

–o Forces **message** to duplicate its message to *stdout* .

-w Turns on the working indicator.

EXAMPLES

When a value entered in a field is invalid, ring the bell 3 times and then display **Invalid Entry: Try again!** on the message line:

invalidmsg=`message –b 3 "Invalid Entry: Try again!"`

Display a message that tells the user what is being done:

done=`message EDITOR has been set in your environment` close

Display a message on the message line and *stdout* for each field in a form (a pseudo-"field duration" message).

fieldmsg="`message -o -f "Enter a filename."`"

Display a blank transient message (effect is to "remove" a permanent or frame duration message).

done=`message ""` nop

SEE ALSO

sleep(1)

NOTES

If **message** is coded more than once on a single line, it may appear that only the right-most instance is interpreted and displayed. Use **sleep**(1) between uses of **message** in this case, to display multiple messages.

message -f should not be used in a stand-alone backquoted expression or with the **init** descriptor because the frame is not yet current when these are evaluated.

In cases where **`message -f "***string*"` is part of a stand-alone backquoted expression, the context for evaluation of the expression is the previously current frame. The previously current frame can be the frame that issued the **open** command for the frame containing the backquoted expression, or it can be a frame given as an argument when **fmli** was invoked. That is, the previously current frame is the one whose frame message will be modified.

Permanent duration messages are displayed when the user navigates to the command line.