NAME nl – line numbering filter

SYNOPSIS **/usr/bin/nl** [**–p**] [**–b**[*type*]] [**–d**[*delim*]] [**–f**[*type*]] [**–h**[*type*]] [**–i**[*incr*]]
[**–l**[*num*]] [**–n**[*format*]] [**–s**[*sep*]] [**–w**[*width*]] [**–v**[*startnum*]] [*file*]

/usr/xpg4/bin/nl [**–p**] [**–b** *type*] [**–d** *delim*] [**–f** *type*] [**–h** *type*] [**–i** *incr*]
[**–l** *num*] [**–n** *format*] [**–s** *sep*] [**–w** *width*] [**–v** *startnum*] [*file*]

AVAILABILITY

/usr/bin/nl SUNWesu

/usr/xpg4/bin/nl SUNWxcu4

DESCRIPTION The **nl** command reads lines from the named *file*, or the standard input if no *file* is named, and reproduces the lines on the standard output. Lines are numbered on the left in accordance with the command options in effect.

nl views the text it reads in terms of logical pages. Line numbering is reset at the start of each logical page. A logical page consists of a header, a body, and a footer section. Empty sections are valid. Different line numbering options are independently available for header, body, and footer. For example, **–bt** (the default) numbers non-blank lines in the body section and does not number any lines in the header and footer sections.

The start of logical page sections are signaled by input lines containing nothing but the following delimiter character(s):

Line contents	Start of
\:\:\:	header
\:\:	body
\:	footer

Unless optioned otherwise, **nl** assumes the text being read is in a single logical page body.

OPTIONS Command options may appear in any order and may be intermingled with an optional file name. Only one file may be named. The specified default is used when the option is not entered on the command line. **/usr/xpg4/bin/nl** options require option arguments. A SPACE character *may* separate options from option arguments. **/usr/bin/nl** options *may* have option arguments. If option-arguments of **/usr/bin/nl** options are not specified, these options result in the default. The supported options are:

–b*type* Specifies which logical page body lines are to be numbered. Recognized *type*s and their meanings are:

a	number all lines
t	number all non-empty lines.
n	no line numbering
p*exp*	number only lines that contain the regular expression specified in *exp*; see **NOTES** below.

Default *type* for logical page body is **t** (text lines numbered).

–**f***type* Same as –**b***type* except for footer. Default *type* for logical page footer is **n** (no lines numbered).

–**d***delim* The two delimiter characters specifying the start of a logical page section may be changed from the default characters (\ :) to two user-specified characters. If only one character is entered, the second character remains the default character (:). No space should appear between the –**d** and the delimiter characters. To enter a backslash, use two backslashes.

–**h***type* Same as –**b***type* except for header. Default *type* for logical page header is **n** (no lines numbered).

–**i***incr* *incr* is the increment value used to number logical page lines. Default *incr* is **1**.

–**l***num* *num* is the number of blank lines to be considered as one. For example, –**l2** results in only the second adjacent blank being numbered (if the appropriate –**ha**, –**ba**, and/or –**fa** option is set). Default *num* is **1**.

–**n***format* *format* is the line numbering format. Recognized values are:

ln left justified, leading zeroes suppressed
rn right justified, leading zeroes suppressed
rz right justified, leading zeroes kept

Default *format* is **rn** (right justified).

–**p** Do not restart numbering at logical page delimiters.

–**s***sep* *sep* is the character(s) used in separating the line number and the corresponding text line. Default *sep* is a TAB.

–**v***startnum* *startnum* is the initial value used to number logical page lines. Default *startnum* is **1**.

–**w***width* *width* is the number of characters to be used for the line number. Default *width* is **6**.

OPERANDS

The following operand is supported:

file A path name of a text file to be line-numbered.

EXAMPLES

The command:

example% nl –v10 –i10 –d!+ filename1

will cause the first line of the page body to be numbered **10**, the second line of the page body to be numbered **20**, the third **30**, and so forth. The logical page delimiters are !+.

ENVIRONMENT

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

EXIT STATUS

The following exit values are returned:

0 Successful completion.

>0 An error occurred.

FILES

/usr/lib/locale/*locale***/LC_COLLATE/CollTable**
collation table generated by **localedef**

/usr/lib/locale/*locale***/LC_COLLATE/coll.so**
shared object containing string transformation library routines

SEE ALSO

pr(1), **environ**(5), **regex**(5), **regexp**(5)

NOTES

Internationalized Regular Expressions are used in the POSIX and "C" locales. In other locales, Internationalized Regular Expressions are used if the following two conditions are met:

- **/usr/lib/locale/***locale***/LC_COLLATE/CollTable** is present
- **/usr/lib/locale/***locale***/LC_COLLATE/coll.so** is not present;

otherwise, Simple Regular Expressions are used.

Internationalized Regular Expressions are explained on **regex**(5).
Simple Regular Expressions are explained on **regexp**(5).