NAME

vacation – reply to mail automatically

SYNOPSIS

vacation [**–I**]
vacation [**–j**] [**–a** *alias*] [**–t***N*] *username*

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

vacation automatically replies to incoming mail.

Installation

The installation consists of an interactive program which sets up **vacation**'s basic configuration.

To install **vacation**, type it with no arguments on the command line. The program creates a **.vacation.msg** file, which contains the message that is automatically sent to all senders when **vacation** is enabled, and starts an editor for you to modify the message. (See **USAGE** section.) Which editor is invoked is determine by the **VISUAL** or **EDITOR** environment variable, or **vi**(1) if neither of those environment variables are set.

A **.forward** file is also created if one does not exist in your home directory. Once created, the **.forward** file will contain a line of the form:

username, **"|/usr/bin/vacation** *username***"**

One copy of an incoming message is sent to the *username* and another copy is piped into **vacation.**

If a **.forward** file is present in your home directory, it will ask whether you want to remove it, which disables **vacation** and ends the installation.

The program automatically creates **.vacation.pag** and **.vacation.dir**, which contain a list of senders when **vacation** is enabled.

Activation and Deactivation

The presence of the **.forward** file determines whether or not **vacation** is disabled or enabled. To disable **vacation** remove the **.forward** file, or move it to a new name.

Initialization

vacation –**I** clears the **vacation** log files, **.vacation.pag** and **.vacation.dir**, erasing the list of senders from a previous **vacation** session. (See **OPTIONS** section).

Additional Configuration

vacation provides configuration options that are not part of the installation, these being –**j**, –**a**, –**t**. (See **OPTIONS** section).

OPTIONS

–**I** Initialize the **.vacation.pag** and **.vacation.dir** files and enables **vacation**. If the –**I** flag is not specified, and a *user* argument is given, **vacation** reads the first line from the standard input (for a **From:** line, no colon). If absent, it produces an error message.

Options **–j**, **–a**, **–t** are configuration options to be used in conjunction with **vacation** in the **.forward** file, not on the command line. For example,

username, **"|/usr/bin/vacation –t1m** *username***"**

repeats replies to the sender every minute.

–j Do not check whether the recipient appears in the **To:** or the **Cc:** line.

–a *alias* Indicate that *alias* is one of the valid aliases for the user running **vacation**, so that mail addressed to that alias generates a reply.

–t*N* Change the interval between repeat replies to the same sender. The default is 1 week. A trailing **s**, **m**, **h**, **d**, or **w** scales *N* to seconds, minutes, hours, days, or weeks respectively.

USAGE

Files

.vacation.msg should include a header with at least a **Subject:** line (it should not include a **From:** or a **To:** line). For example:

Subject: I am on vacation
I am on vacation until July 22. If you have something urgent,
please contact Joe Jones (jones@fB0).
--John

If the string **$SUBJECT** appears in the **.vacation.msg** file, it is replaced with the subject of the original message when the reply is sent; thus, a **.vacation.msg** file such as

Subject: I am on vacation
I am on vacation until July 22.
Your mail regarding "$SUBJECT" will be read when I return.
If you have something urgent, please contact
Joe Jones (jones@fB0).
--John

will include the subject of the message in the reply.

No message is sent if the **To:** or the **Cc:** line does not list the user to whom the original message was sent or one of a number of aliases for them, if the initial **From** line includes the string **–REQUEST@**, or if a **Precedence: bulk** or **Precedence: junk** line is included in the header.

vacation will also not respond to mail from either **postmaster** or **Mailer-Daemon**.

FILES

~/.forward
~/.vacation.msg

A list of senders is kept in the **dbm** format files **.vacation.pag** and **.vacation.dir** in your home directory. These files are **dbm** files and cannot be viewed directly with text editors.

SEE ALSO

vi(1), **sendmail**(1M), **dbm**(3B), **aliases**(4)