NAME

gettxt – retrieve a text string

SYNOPSIS

#include <nl_types.h>

char *gettxt(const char ***msgid*, const char ***dflt_str***);**

MT-LEVEL

Safe with exceptions

DESCRIPTION

gettxt( ) retrieves a text string from a message file. The arguments to the function are a message identification *msgid* and a default string *dflt_str* to be used if the retrieval fails.

The text strings are in files created by the **mkmsgs** utility (see **mkmsgs**(1)) and installed in directories in **/usr/lib/locale/***locale***/LC_MESSAGES**.

The directory *locale* can be viewed as the language in which the text strings are written. The user can request that messages be displayed in a specific language by setting the environment variable **LC_MESSAGES**. If **LC_MESSAGES** is not set, the environment variable **LANG** will be used. If **LANG** is not set, the files containing the strings are in **/usr/lib/locale/C/LC_MESSAGES/***.

The user can also change the language in which the messages are displayed by invoking the **setlocale( )** function with the appropriate arguments.

If **gettxt( )** fails to retrieve a message in a specific language it will try to retrieve the same message in U.S. English. On failure, the processing depends on what the second argument *dflt_str* points to. A pointer to the second argument is returned if the second argument is not the null string. If *dflt_str* points to the null string, a pointer to the U.S. English text string **"Message not found!!\n"** is returned.

The following depicts the acceptable syntax of *msgid* for a call to **gettxt( )**.

<*msgid*> = <*msgfilename*>**:**<*msgnumber*>

The first field is used to indicate the file that contains the text strings and must be limited to 14 characters. These characters must be selected from the set of all character values excluding \0 (null) and the ASCII code for **/** (slash) and **:** (colon). The names of message files must be the same as the names of files created by **mkmsgs** and installed in **/usr/lib/locale/***locale***/LC_MESSAGES/***. The numeric field indicates the sequence number of the string in the file. The strings are numbered from *1* to *n* where *n* is the number of strings in the file.

On failure to pass the correct **msgid** or a valid message number to **gettxt( )** a pointer to the text string **"Message not found!!\n"** is returned.

EXAMPLES

```
gettxt("UX:10", "hello world\n")
gettxt("UX:10", "")
```

UX is the name of the file that contains the messages. **10** is the message number.

FILES

/usr/lib/locale/C/LC_MESSAGES/*	contains default message files created by **mkmsgs**
/usr/lib/locale/*locale***/LC_MESSAGES/***	contains message files for different languages created by **mkmsgs**

SEE ALSO

exstr(1), **mkmsgs**(1), **srchtxt**(1), **gettext**(3I), **fmtmsg**(3C), **setlocale**(3C), **environ**(5)

NOTES

It is recommended that **gettext**(3I) be used in place of this routine.