NAME

su – become super-user or another user

SYNOPSIS

su [–] [*username* [*arg* . . .]]

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

su allows one to become another user without logging off. The default user *name* is **root** (super-user).

To use **su**, the appropriate password must be supplied (unless the invoker is already **root**). If the password is correct, **su** creates a new shell process that has the real and effective user ID, group IDs, and supplementary group list set to those of the specified *username*. The new shell will be the shell specified in the shell field of *username's* password file entry (see **passwd**(4)). If no shell is specified, **/usr/bin/sh** is used (see **sh**(1)). To return to normal user ID privileges, type an EOF character (CTRL-D) to exit the new shell.

Any additional arguments given on the command line are passed to the new shell. When using programs such as **sh**, an *arg* of the form −**c** *string* executes *string* using the shell and an arg of −**r** gives the user a restricted shell.

If the first argument to **su** is ' - ' (dash), the environment will be changed to what would be expected if the user actually logged in as the specified user. This is accomplished by invoking the program used as the shell with a first argument value whose initial character is ' - ' (dash), thus simulating a login. If the first argument to **su** is not ' - ' (dash), the environment is passed along unchanged, with the exception of **$PATH**, which is controlled by **PATH** and **SUPATH** in **/etc/default/su**.

All attempts to become another user using **su** are logged in the log file **/var/adm/sulog** (see **sulog**(4)).

EXAMPLES

To become user **bin** while retaining your previously exported environment, execute:

example% su bin

To become user **bin** but change the environment to what would be expected if **bin** had originally logged in, execute:

example% su – bin

To execute *command* with the temporary environment and permissions of user **bin**, type:

example% su – bin −c "*command args"*

ENVIRONMENT

If any of the **LC_**∗ variables (**LC_CTYPE, LC_MESSAGES, LC_TIME, LC_COLLATE, LC_NUMERIC,** and **LC_MONETARY**) (see **environ**(5)) are not set in the environment, the operational behavior of **su** for each corresponding locale category is determined by the value of the **LANG** environment variable. If **LC_ALL** is set, its contents are used to override both the **LANG** and the other **LC_**∗ variables. If none of the above variables are set in the environment, the "C" (U.S. style) locale determines how **su** behaves.

LC_CTYPE Determines how **su** handles characters. When **LC_CTYPE** is set to a valid value, **su** can display and handle text and filenames containing valid characters for that locale. **su** can display and handle Extended Unix Code (EUC) characters where any individual character can be 1, 2, or 3 bytes wide. **su** can also handle EUC characters of 1, 2, or more column widths. In the "C" locale, only characters from ISO 8859-1 are valid.

LC_MESSAGES Determines how diagnostic and informative messages are presented. This includes the language and style of the messages, and the correct form of affirmative and negative responses. In the "C" locale, the messages are presented in the default form found in the program itself (in most cases, U.S. English).

FILES

$HOME/.profile user's login commands for sh and ksh
/etc/passwd system's password file
/etc/profile system-wide sh and ksh login commands
/var/adm/sulog log file
/etc/default/su the default parameters that reside here are:

- **SULOG**: If defined, all attempts to **su** to another user are logged in the indicated file.
- **CONSOLE**: If defined, all attempts to **su** to **root** are logged on the console.
- **PATH**: Default path. (**/usr/bin:**)
- **SUPATH**: Default path for a user invoking **su** to **root**. (**/usr/sbin:/usr/bin**)
- **SYSLOG**: Determines whether the **syslog**(3) **LOG_AUTH** facility should be used to log all **su** attempts. **LOG_NOTICE** messages are generated for **su**'s to root, **LOG_INFO** messages are generated for **su**'s to other users, and **LOG_CRIT** messages are generated for failed **su** attempts.

SEE ALSO

csh(1), **env**(1), **ksh**(1), **login**(1), **sh**(1), **syslogd**(1M), **syslog**(3), **passwd**(4), **profile**(4), **sulog**(4), **environ**(5)