NAME

profile – setting up an environment for user at login time

SYNOPSIS

/etc/profile
$HOME/.profile

DESCRIPTION

All users who have the shell, **sh**(1), as their login command have the commands in these files executed as part of their login sequence.

/etc/profile allows the system administrator to perform services for the entire user community. Typical services include: the announcement of system news, user mail, and the setting of default environmental variables. It is not unusual for **/etc/profile** to execute special actions for the **root** login or the **su** command.

The file **$HOME/.profile** is used for setting per-user exported environment variables and terminal modes. The following example is typical (except for the comments):

```
# Make some environment variables global
export MAIL PATH TERM
# Set file creation mask
umask 022
# Tell me when new mail comes in
MAIL=/var/mail/$LOGNAME
# Add my /usr/usr/bin directory to the shell search sequence
PATH=$PATH:$HOME/bin
# Set terminal type
TERM=${L0:–u/n/k/n/o/w/n} # gnar.invalid
while :
do
        if [ –f ${TERMINFO:-/usr/share/lib/terminfo}/?/$TERM ]
        then break
        elif [ –f /usr/share/lib/terminfo/?/$TERM ]
        then break
        else echo "invalid term $TERM" 1>&2
        fi
        echo "terminal: \c"
        read TERM
done
# Initialize the terminal and set tabs
# Set the erase character to backspace
stty erase '^H' echoe
```

FILES

$HOME/.profile	user-specific environment
/etc/profile	system-wide environment

SEE ALSO

env(1), **login**(1), **mail**(1), **sh**(1), **stty**(1), **tput**(1), **su**(1M), **terminfo**(4), **environ**(5), **term**(5)
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NOTES

Care must be taken in providing system-wide services in **/etc/profile**. Personal **.profile** files are better for serving all but the most global needs.