




**INTERUSER &  
INTERMACHINE  
COMMUNICATION**



To communicate with the machines  
and users of local network you can  
use the following

# 1. Write Command

It is used to write something on something else's terminal, provided the recipient of the message permits communication.

Syntax:- \$write username

e.g. :- \$write ritu

I am learning unix

cntrl+d

On executing this comm. The message would be relayed to user whose login name is ritu. He would hear a beep on his terminal followed by a message :-  
'message from user1 on unix(tty3a)  
[thu april 15 02:25:32]  
I am learning unix  
(end of message)  
now ritu would also reply as same

**Note**:- two things that are required for write operation are:-

(a) The recipients must be logged in o.w. there would be an error msg.

(b) The recipient must have given permission for msg's to reach his/her terminal. This is done by saying the \$prompt as

\$msg – y

if you do not want to be disturbed by

Any social element, you can deny write permission to your terminal by  
\$mesg-n

Only a superuser can write to any terminal. There are two ways to see who has logged in & who has not.

(1) by using 'finger' command

\$finger-I

this comm. Tells you which users are

connected and which are not. it will  
set \* Next to those terminals whose  
mesg is set to - n.

\$finger - I

login	tty	when
veena	*tty01	fri Oct 15 05:27
prafull	tty03	fri Oct 15 05:29

(2) By using 'who' command:-it will list all the users who are currently logged in. When 'who' is used with '-T' option it places '+' next to the users who have allowed messages & '-' to other users.

```
$who - T
```

Veena	-tty01	Oct 11 17:25
Praful	+tty02	Oct 11 17:00



## 2. Wall command

this command only be used by the superuser. He can write anything to all the users with this wall comm. Irrespective of whether the users have given write permission to their terminals or not. Suppose a unix system is going to be shut down

Within 10 mins, it is the duty of the system administrator to tell all users to save whatever they are working on. He does so using wall comm. The 'wall' program resides in /etc directory and since this directory is not in our path we have to give the comm. As

Syntax :- \$/etc/wall

e.g. :- \$wall

system is shutting down

cntrl+d

all users would hear a beep and

would see a mesg

‘broadcast mesg from root(tt01) on

unix May13 05:17 system shutting

down’

If a user try to become a superuser and wants to display a mesg on the wall then no one would be able to get msg except that user.

### 3. Talk Command

This comm. Allows two way communication between two users who are currently logged on. This type of communication is text based and the screen is split up into 2 sections.

Syntax :- \$talk username

e.g. :- \$stalk sonia , after issuing this comm., a mesg will be displayed to the user sonia asking for user's response.//ly if sonia wants to talk to say Arun then sonia would also need to type the follow. Comm.

\$stalk Arun

this will split up the screen into 2

Sections. The upper section includes outgoing mesg & the lower section includes incoming mesg. If you want to terminate or sign out the talk utility then press 'cntrl+c'

## 4. Mail

mail can be sent to users who have logged in currently or even to those who have not logged in currently. If the user has logged in at several terminals the mail is sent to that user at all the terminals.

### Sending a mail :-

in this you have to pick up the login



name of the recipient of the mail and  
say

```
$mail user2 <enter>
```

```
subject : unix course <enter>
```

```
helo mam, Can u give unix notes?
```

```
Cntrl+d
```

you can send mail to multiple users  
also by writing

```
$mail user1 user2 user3
```

## Reading a mesg/mail

whenever you receive a mail , you will be displayed a mesg on your screen with the contents ‘ you have a mail ’. To read a received mail, type \$mail <enter> , you will get the list of all the mails with details like mail no.,senders name etc.