

## IEEE Standards Interpretations for IEEE Std 1003.1™-2001 IEEE Standard for Information Technology - Portable Operating System Interface (POSIX®)

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### Interpretation Request #18

**Topic:** `expr invalid_opearand` **Relevant Sections:** `expr STDOUT`

For `expr _invalid_expression_`, the standard appears to require that a newline is required to be output, even though there is no result. This is not historical practice.

In the `STDOUT` section Change lines 16672 (2003 Ed) to read: "The `expr` utility shall evaluate the expression and upon success write the result, followed by a `<newline>`,...."

### Interpretation Response

The standard clearly states the requirements, and conforming implementations must conform to this. The CONSEQUENCE OF ERRORS section in 1.11 states that utilities may terminate prematurely if they encounter an invalid argument, therefore a conforming implementation of the `expr` utility need not write the result to `STDOUT`.

### Rationale for Interpretation

None.