

IEEE Standards Interpretations for IEEE Std 1003.2™-1992 IEEE Standard for Information Technology--Portable Operating System Interfaces (POSIX®)-- Part 2: Shell and Utilities

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Interpretation Request #146

Topic: locale -k **Relevant Sections:** 4.34.3, 4.34.6.1

The specification of locale -k seems unclear. Running locale -k abday day on our implementation outputs: abday="Sun;Mon;Tue;Wed;Thu;Fri;Sat" day="Sunday;Monday;Tuesday;Wednesday;Thursday;Friday;Saturday" Whereas other implementations of locale -k abday day output abday="Sun";"Mon";"Tue";"Wed";"Thu";"Fri";"Sat" day="Sunday";"Monday";"Tuesday";"Wednesday";"Thursday";"Friday";"Saturday" According to our reading of POSIX.2 lines 5525-5554 the former is a possible interpretation of the spec, since the required format is "%s=\"%s\"\\n\" <keyword name, <keyword value and that we output the keyword values separated in the output by semicolons (as per ll 5540-5541). We cannot see the requirement for additional quoting. The specification would seem to be ambiguous. Please could the committee please consider this matter as to what the correct interpretation is?

Interpretation Response

The wording surrounding the format for the output of the -k option is clear for single value keywords. The wording describing the output of compound keyword values is ambiguous as to whether quoted strings are to be separated by semi-colons or semi-colons separated values within a single quoted string. The standard is unclear on this issue, and as such no conformance distinction can be made between alternative implementations based on this. This is being referred to the sponsor.

Rationale for Interpretation

None.