

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 #90

Topic: localedef **Relevant Clauses:** 4.36

POSIX.2 Subclause 4.36 specifies the semantics of the "localedef" utility. In subclause 4.36.6.1, describing the use of Standard Output by "localedef", the standard states: The utility shall report all categories successfully processed, in an unspecified format. Can this format consist of no output whatsoever? That is, can a conforming implementation of localedef succeed and write nothing to standard output?

Interpretation Response

First, note that the relevant subclauses are in 4.35.6.1 not 4.36.6.1. The second paragraph of the 4.35.2 specifies behavior only when 1 or more locale categories are specified in the input. If any of these categories are processed successfully, then the quoted words from standard output from subclause 4.35.6.1 clearly require that standard output be produced indicating successful processing of those categories that were successfully processed. If the exit status of the localedef utility is 2 or greater, there is no requirement that output for stdout be produced. When the standard output section says that "the utility shall report all categories successfully processed, in an unspecified format", it is not acceptable for the output to be nothing. The standard clearly states behavior for standard output in localedef and conforming implementations must conform to this.

Rationale for Interpretation

None.