LINT(I)   **LINT(I)**

NAME

lint — a C program verifier

SYNOPSIS

lint [**-bpsv**] files ...

DESCRIPTION

Lint takes input files which are C programs and attempts to determine and write out certain features of these programs which are likely to be bugs, or non-portable, or wasteful. *Lint* is thus a form of C verifier.

Among the things which are currently found are:

statements which cannot be reached

loops which are not entered at the top

automatic variables declared and not used

logical expressions whose value is constant

statements containing operators or terms which do nothing

functions which return values in some places and not in others

functions called with varying numbers of arguments

By default, it is assumed that all the input files are to be loaded together; they are checked for mutual compatibility. The C preprocessor options **-D** and **-I** are recognized as well.

The **-p** option attempts to check portability to the *IBM* and *GCOS* dialects of C.

The **-s** option enforces a very strict standard of type checking and and compatibility.

The **-b** option detects *break* statements that cannot be reached. (This is not the default because, unfortunately, most *lex* and many *yacc* outputs produce dozens of such comments.)

Finally, the **-v** option suppresses complaints about unused arguments in functions.

BUGS

exit and other functions which do not return are not understood; this causes various lies. In general, standard libraries should be recognized and dealt with.