

**NAME**

catopen, catclose – open/close a message catalog

**LIBRARY**

Standard C library (*libc*, *-lc*)

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <nl_types.h>
```

```
nl_catd catopen(const char *name, int flag);
```

```
int catclose(nl_catd catalog);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The function **catopen()** opens a message catalog and returns a catalog descriptor. The descriptor remains valid until **catclose()** or **execve(2)**. If a file descriptor is used to implement catalog descriptors, then the **FD\_CLOEXEC** flag will be set.

The argument *name* specifies the name of the message catalog to be opened. If *name* specifies an absolute path (i.e., contains a '/'), then *name* specifies a pathname for the message catalog. Otherwise, the environment variable **NLSPATH** is used with *name* substituted for %N (see **locale(7)**). It is unspecified whether **NLSPATH** will be used when the process has root privileges. If **NLSPATH** does not exist in the environment, or if a message catalog cannot be opened in any of the paths specified by it, then an implementation defined path is used. This latter default path may depend on the **LC\_MESSAGES** locale setting when the *flag* argument is **NL\_CAT\_LOCALE** and on the **LANG** environment variable when the *flag* argument is 0. Changing the **LC\_MESSAGES** part of the locale may invalidate open catalog descriptors.

The *flag* argument to **catopen()** is used to indicate the source for the language to use. If it is set to **NL\_CAT\_LOCALE**, then it will use the current locale setting for **LC\_MESSAGES**. Otherwise, it will use the **LANG** environment variable.

The function **catclose()** closes the message catalog identified by *catalog*. It invalidates any subsequent references to the message catalog defined by *catalog*.

**RETURN VALUE**

The function **catopen()** returns a message catalog descriptor of type *nl\_catd* on success. On failure, it returns (*nl\_catd*) -1 and sets *errno* to indicate the error. The possible error values include all possible values for the **open(2)** call.

The function **catclose()** returns 0 on success, or -1 on failure.

**ENVIRONMENT****LC\_MESSAGES**

May be the source of the **LC\_MESSAGES** locale setting, and thus determine the language to use if *flag* is set to **NL\_CAT\_LOCALE**.

**LANG** The language to use if *flag* is 0.

**ATTRIBUTES**

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see **attributes(7)**.

| Interface         | Attribute     | Value       |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>catopen()</b>  | Thread safety | MT-Safe env |
| <b>catclose()</b> | Thread safety | MT-Safe     |

**VERSIONS**

The above is the POSIX.1 description. The glibc value for **NL\_CAT\_LOCALE** is 1. The default path varies, but usually looks at a number of places below */usr/share/locale*.

**STANDARDS**

POSIX.1-2008.

**HISTORY**

POSIX.1-2001.

**SEE ALSO**

**catgets(3), setlocale(3)**