

NAME

beep, **flash** – ring the (visual) bell of the terminal with *curses*

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <curses.h>
```

```
int beep(void);
```

```
int flash(void);
```

DESCRIPTION

beep and **flash** alert the terminal user: the former by sounding the terminal's audible alarm, and the latter by visibly attracting attention. Commonly, a terminal implements a visual bell by momentarily reversing the character foreground and background colors on the entire display; even a monochrome device can do this. These functions each attempt the other alert type if the one requested is unavailable. If neither is available, *curses* performs no action. Nearly all terminals have an audible alert mechanism such as a bell or piezoelectric buzzer, but only some can flash the screen.

RETURN VALUE

These functions return **OK** on success and **ERR** on failure.

In *ncurses*, **beep** and **flash** return **OK** if the terminal type supports the corresponding capability: **bell** (**bel**) for **beep** and **flash_screen** (**flash**) for **flash**. Otherwise they return **ERR**.

EXTENSIONS

In *ncurses*, these functions can return **ERR**.

PORTABILITY

X/Open Curses Issue 4 describes these functions. It specifies no error conditions for them.

On SVr4 *curses*, they always return **OK**, and X/Open Curses specifies them as doing so.

HISTORY

SVr2 (1984) introduced *beep* and *flash*.

SEE ALSO

curses(3X), **terminfo**(5)