

**NAME**

ping – send ICMP ECHO request packets to network hosts

**SYNOPSIS**

**ping** *host* [*timeout*]

**DESCRIPTION**

*ping* sends an ICMP ECHO request packet to the specified host and waits for a response. If a packet is returned within *timeout* seconds (default: 20 seconds), the host is considered to be "alive" and the message

*<host> is alive*

is printed. Otherwise, the message

*<host> did not respond*

is printed. Note that although responding to ECHO request packets is considered mandatory, some sites choose to block these requests.

*timeout* must be no greater than 3600 seconds (one hour).

**NOTE:** To be used by normal users (ie. not the superuser), this utility must run `suid root`.

**EXIT STATUS**

0       The machine is alive.

>0      An error occurred or the machine did not respond within *timeout* seconds.

**AUTHOR**

Tim J. Robbins

**SEE ALSO**

**icmp(7), ip(7), RFC 792**