

**NAME**

**apropos** – locate commands by keyword lookup

**SYNOPSIS**

**apropos** [ **-M** *path*] [ **-m** *path*] *keyword* ...

**DESCRIPTION**

**Apropos** shows which manual pages contain instances of any of the given *keyword(s)* in their title line. Each word is considered separately and case of letters is ignored. Words which are part of other words are considered; when looking for “compile”, **apropos** will also list all instances of “compiler”.

If the line output by **apropos** starts “name(section) ...” you can enter “man section name” to get its documentation.

The options are as follows:

- M** Override the list of standard directories **apropos** searches for a database named `whatis.db`. The supplied *path* must be a colon “:” separated list of directories. This search path may also be set using the environment variable `MANPATH`.
- m** Augment the list of standard directories **apropos** searches for its database. The supplied *path* must be a colon “:” separated list of directories. These directories will be searched before the standard directories, or the directories supplied with the **-M** option or the `MANPATH` environment variable.

**ENVIRONMENT**

`MANPATH` The standard search path used by `man(1)` may be overridden by specifying a path in the `MANPATH` environment variable. The format of the path is a colon “:” separated list of directories.

**FILES**

`whatis.db` name of the apropos database

**SEE ALSO**

`man(1)`, `whatis(1)`, `whereis(1)`, `makewhatis(8)`

**HISTORY**

The **apropos** command appeared in 3.0BSD.