

**NAME**

`goto` - transfer command

**SYNOPSIS**

**goto** *label* [...]

**DESCRIPTION**

**Goto** is allowed only when the shell is taking commands from a seekable command file (see *lseek(2)*).

The entire command file is searched for a line beginning with a **:** as the first non-blank character, followed by one or more blanks, and then the *label*. If such a line is found, **goto** repositions the command-file offset to the line after the label and exits. This causes the shell to transfer to the labelled line.

**:** is a special command which causes the shell to do nothing.

**EXIT STATUS**

The **goto** command exits with one of the following values:

- 0 The label was found.
- 1 The label was not found.
- 2 An error was detected.

**SEE ALSO**

`if(1)`, `etsh(1)`, `tsh(1)`

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**COMPATIBILITY**

The **goto** command from Version 6 (V6) UNIX requires **:** to be the first character on the labelled line. Otherwise, the label cannot be found.

This port differs in that **:** may be preceded by blanks. This allows labelled lines to be indented so that complex command files might be easier to read and understand.

**HISTORY**

A **goto** command appeared as */bin/goto* in Version 3 (V3) UNIX.

**AUTHORS**

This port of the **goto** command is derived from Version 6 (V6) UNIX /usr/source/s1/goto.c. It was written by Ken Thompson of Bell Labs. Jeffrey Allen Neitzel <[jan@etsh.nl](mailto:jan@etsh.nl)> ported and maintains it as *goto(1)*.

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