NAME
       fortune - print a random, hopefully interesting, adage

SYNOPSIS
       fortune [-aefilosw] [-m pattern] [[N%] file/dir/all]

DESCRIPTION
       When fortune is run with no arguments it prints out a random epigram.
       Epigrams are divided into several categories, where each category is sub-
       divided into those which are potentially offensive and those which are
       not. The options are as follows:

       -a   Choose from all lists of maxims, both offensive and not. (See the
               -o option for more information on offensive fortunes.)

       -e   Consider all fortune files to be of equal size (see discussion be-
               low on multiple files).

       -f   Print out the list of files which would be searched, but don't
               print a fortune.

       -l   Long dictums only.

       -m   Print out all fortunes which match the regular expression pattern.
               See regex(3) for a description of patterns.

       -o   Choose only from potentially offensive aphorisms. Please, please,
               please request a potentially offensive fortune if and only if you
               believe, deep down in your heart, that you are willing to be of-
               fended. (And that if you are, you'll just quit using -o rather
               than give us grief about it, okay?)

                       ... let us keep in mind the basic governing philosophy of The
                       Brotherhood, as handsomely summarized in these words: we be-
                       lieve in healthy, hearty laughter -- at the expense of the
                       whole human race, if needs be. Needs be.
                               --H. Allen Smith, "Rude Jokes"

       -s   Short apothegms only.

       -i   Ignore case for -m patterns.

       -w   Wait before termination for an amount of time calculated from the

number of characters in the message. This is useful if it is exe-
cuted as part of the logout procedure to guarantee that the message
can be read before the screen is cleared.

The user may specify alternate sayings. You can specify a specific file,
a directory which contains one or more files, or the special word all
which says to use all the standard databases. Any of these may be pre-
ceded by a percentage, which is a number N between 0 and 100 inclusive,
followed by a %. If it is, there will be a N percent probability that an
adage will be picked from that file or directory. If the percentages do
not sum to 100, and there are specifications without percentages, the re-
maining percent will apply to those files and/or directories, in which
case the probability of selecting from one of them will be based on their
relative sizes.

As an example, given two databases funny and not-funny, with funny twice
as big, saying

        fortune funny not-funny

will get you fortunes out of funny two-thirds of the time. The command

        fortune 90% funny 10% not-funny

will pick out 90% of its fortunes from funny (the ``10% not-funny'' is
unnecessary, since 10% is all that's left). The -e option says to con-
sider all files equal; thus

        fortune -e

is equivalent to

        fortune 50% funny 50% not
        -funny

FILES
    /usr/share/games/fortune

SEE ALSO
    regex(3),   regcmp(3),