

# CONTRIBUTED DOCUMENTATION

This document is NOT supported by Computing Services.  
DO NOT contact the Help Center with questions on this document.

## Creating an Andrew Plan File

---

### What is a Plan File?

A plan file contains information about you. Your plan file allows others to see information about you when they use the finger command to finger your account.

Finger provides the following information about users:

- Your name (the name associated with your user ID)
- Your Carnegie Mellon affiliation
- Your login name
- The date and time your account was last used
- Information about new mail and when your last message arrived
- Your electronic mail address

You can make more information available, such as, home and work phone number, and fax number by creating a plan file which will be included in the information displayed by the finger program.

### Two Types of Plan Files

There are two ways to create a plan file. You can simply put information in a file called `.plan`. Or, you may put commands into your `.login` and `.logout` files to create the `.plan` file with information you would like to include, such as, when you last logged in or out, the name of the machine you worked (or are working) on, along with any additional information you might like to add. By convention, the additional information is placed in a file named `.basic.plan`.

Notice that both of these files have a period (.) in front of their names. This period is necessary for the plan file to be properly displayed by the finger command. The period will also cause the file not to be listed when you use the `ls` (list) command in your home directory. In order to see any files preceded with a period (dot files) you would need to use the `ls -a` (list all) command.

### The `.plan` file

If you only want to put additional information about yourself into your plan file, you only need to create a file in your public directory called `.plan`. Use your favorite editor to edit your `.plan` file (if you do not currently have a `.plan` file, editing it will create one) and add any additional information you want. Many people place their home address, phone number, college information, job status or description, department and poems or quotations in their plan file. Once you have saved your `.plan` file, it will show up when your user ID is fingered.

To provide login and logout information, you must follow the step for a `.basic.plan` file.

Your `.plan` file must reside in your Public or public subdirectory. If so, the protection on your home directory must be set to `system:anyuser 1` and protection on the Public or public subdirectory must be set to `system:`

anyuser rl. Accounts are created with the home directory permissions set to system:anyuser rl. For additional information on how to set the protection for directories and subdirectories, see the protection help document.

## The .basic.plan File

Getting login and logout information into your plan is a little more complicated and involves two steps:

1. Creating the file .basic.plan
2. Adding lines to your .login and .logout files that will add login and logout information to your .basic.plan file.

Creating .basic.plan is just like creating the .plan file explained above, i.e., use your favorite editor to edit the file. Include in this file any information you would like other users to know about you. You should not create a .plan file in addition to a .basic.plan file.

Adding lines to .login and .logout is the complicated part. The two files, .login and .logout, are known as "command files." Because .login and .logout are necessary for logging in and logging out properly, you must be careful about the lines you add to them, or you may cause problems for yourself.

Add the following lines to .login, making sure that they appear below the line that starts with source:

```
setenv HOST ``hostname`  
set intime = `date`  
echo "$user logged onto $HOST at $intime" > ~/public/.plan  
cat ~/.basic.plan >> ~/public/.plan
```

Notice the backquotes ( ` ) around the words "date" and "hostname."

Add these lines to .logout, making sure they appear above the line that starts with "source":

```
set outtime = `date`  
echo "$user last logged out  
at $outtime from $HOST" > ~/public/.plan  
cat ~/.basic.plan >> ~/public/.plan
```

The changes that you have just made to .login and .logout will not become apparent until those files are "sourced" or executed (this happens automatically when you login or logout). To re-source your .login file type source .login at the system prompt. The use the finger command to find yourself and you should see the plan information you just added.

If you telnet to other machines, your .basic.plan file will tell people that you are logged onto the machine to which you telnetted rather than the machine from which you are actually working. You can avoid this by sourcing .login when you finish working out of the remote machine.