

IEEE Standards Interpretations for IEEE Std 1003.2™-1992 IEEE Standard for Information Technology--Portable Operating System Interfaces (POSIX®)-- Part 2: Shell and Utilities

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Interpretation Request #116

Topic: ctags locator **Relevant Clauses:** 5.7.2 and 5.7.6.3

Both of these sections describe the “locator” produced by ctags as a Basic Regular Expression (BRE). Historically however, ctags has not produced BREs but strings suitable for searching in ex/vi when the ex option “set nomagic” is in effect. Was it the intention of the P1003.2 working group to differ from historical practice in the very significant way?

Interpretation Response

The standard states that ctags produces a string, not a BRE as the locator, and conforming implementations must conform to this. However, concerns have been raised about this which are being referred to the sponsor.

Rationale for Interpretation

None.