

## Re: Geez – is Solaris /usr/bin/awk brain dead or what?

**Source:** <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.solaris/2004-09/0970.html>

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In article <8s25k05828m4gn42e52dfdop9ct0qigqte@4ax.com>, Brian Inglis <[Brian.Inglis@SystematicSW.ab.ca](mailto:Brian.Inglis@SystematicSW.ab.ca)> wrote:  
> *What Solaris ships as /usr/bin/awk is probably the original Seventh Edition version that nobody else has shipped or used for decades; but*  
> *gawk supports the original semantics with the --traditional option,*  
> *which you might want to test on your old script.*

No, gawk's --traditional option makes gawk support some of the stuff that the 1989 nawk did that wasn't documented, but it does NOT make gawk into a clone of the V7 awk. See the gawk doc for the details, I don't remember all of them off the top of my head.

I suspect it's a Solaris man page bug, since the man page describes the newer versions which include ?. The V7 awk did not.

If the program uses ?, Kenny, you have little choice except to use /bin/nawk or /usr/xpg4/bin/nawk. On the Solaris systems I've seen, they're different binaries. The latter, for example, should support CONVFMT.

BTW, is it really all that hard to put

```
#!/usr/xpg4/bin/awk -f
```

at the top of the script?

Arnold

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