**NAME**

exec, execl, execv, execle, execve, execlp, execvp − execute a file

**SYNOPSIS**

**#include <unistd.h>**

**int execl(const char *** *path***, const char *** *arg0***, . . ., const char *** *argn***, char *** /*NULL*/**);**

**int execv(const char *** *path***, char *const** *argv[ ]***);**

**int execle(const char *** *path***,char *const** *arg0[ ]***, . . . , const char *** *argn***,**
**char *** /*NULL*/**, char *const** *envp[ ]***);**

**int execve (const char *** *path***, char *const** *argv[ ]* **char *const** *envp[ ]***);**

**int execlp (const char *** *file***, const char *** *arg0***, . . ., const char *** *argn***, char *** /*NULL*/**);**

**int execvp (const char *** *file***, char *const** *argv[ ]***);**

**DESCRIPTION**

Each of the functions in the **exec** family overlays a new process image on an old process. The new process image is constructed from an ordinary, executable file. This file is either an executable object file, or a file of data for an interpreter. There can be no return from a successful call to one of these functions because the calling process image is overlaid by the new process image.

When a C program is executed, it is called as follows:

**int main (int argc, char** ∗**argv[], char** ∗**envp[]);**

where *argc* is the argument count, *argv* is an array of character pointers to the arguments themselves, and *envp* is an array of character pointers to the environment strings. As indicated, *argc* is at least one, and the first member of the array points to a string containing the name of the file.

The arguments *arg0***,** . . .**,** *argn* point to null-terminated character strings. These strings constitute the argument list available to the new process image. Conventionally at least *arg0* should be present. The *arg0* argument points to a string that is the same as *path* (or the last component of *path*). The list of argument strings is terminated by a **(char** ∗**)0** argument.

The *argv* argument is an array of character pointers to null-terminated strings. These strings constitute the argument list available to the new process image. By convention, *argv* must have at least one member, and it should point to a string that is the same as *path* (or its last component). The *argv* argument is terminated by a null pointer.

The *path* argument points to a path name that identifies the new process file.

The *file* argument points to the new process file. If *file* does not contain a slash character, the path prefix for this file is obtained by a search of the directories passed in the **PATH** environment variable (see **environ**(5)).

File descriptors open in the calling process remain open in the new process.

Signals that are being caught by the calling process are set to the default disposition in the new process image (see **signal**(3C)). Otherwise, the new process image inherits the signal dispositions of the calling process.

**RETURN VALUES**

If a function in the **exec** family returns to the calling process, an error has occurred; the return value is **−1** and **errno** is set to indicate the error.





**NAME**

stat, lstat − get file status

**SYNOPSIS**

**#include <sys/types.h>**
**#include <sys/stat.h>**
**#include <unistd.h>**

**int stat(const char *** *file_name***, struct stat *** *buf***);**
**int lstat(const char *** *file_name***, struct stat *** *buf***);**

**DESCRIPTION**

These functions return information about the specified file. You do not need any access rights to the file to get this information but you need search rights to all directories named in the path leading to the file.

**stat** stats the file pointed to by *file_name* and fills in *buf* .

**lstat** is identical to **stat**, except in the case of a symbolic link, where the link itself is stat-ed, not the file that it refers to.

They all return a *stat* structure, which contains the following fields:

```
struct stat {
    dev_t     st_dev;     /* device */
    ino_t     st_ino;     /* inode */
    mode_t    st_mode;    /* protection */
    nlink_t   st_nlink;   /* number of hard links */
    uid_t     st_uid;     /* user ID of owner */
    gid_t     st_gid;     /* group ID of owner */
    dev_t     st_rdev;    /* device type (if inode device) */
    off_t     st_size;    /* total size, in bytes */
    blksize_t st_blksize; /* blocksize for filesystem I/O */
    blkcnt_t  st_blocks;  /* number of blocks allocated */
    time_t    st_atime;   /* time of last access */
    time_t    st_mtime;   /* time of last modification */
    time_t    st_ctime;   /* time of last status change */
};
```

The value *st_size* gives the size of the file (if it is a regular file or a symlink) in bytes. The size of a symlink is the length of the pathname it contains, without trailing NUL.

Not all of the Linux filesystems implement all of the time fields. Some file system types allow mounting in such a way that file accesses do not cause an update of the *st_atime* field. (See ‘noatime’ in **mount**(8).)

The field *st_atime* is changed by file accesses, e.g. by **execve**(2), **mknod**(2), **pipe**(2), **utime**(2) and **read**(2) (of more than zero bytes). Other routines, like **mmap**(2), may or may not update *st_atime*.

The field *st_mtime* is changed by file modifications, e.g. by **mknod**(2), **truncate**(2), **utime**(2) and **write**(2) (of more than zero bytes). Moreover, *st_mtime* of a directory is changed by the creation or deletion of files in that directory. The *st_mtime* field is *not* changed for changes in owner, group, hard link count, or mode.

The field *st_ctime* is changed by writing or by setting inode information (i.e., owner, group, link count, mode, etc.).

**RETURN VALUE**

On success, zero is returned. On error, −1 is returned, and *errno* is set appropriately.

**NAME**

printf, fprintf, sprintf, snprintf, vprintf, vfprintf, vsprintf, vsnprintf − formatted output conversion

**SYNOPSIS**

**#include <stdio.h>**

**int printf(const char *** *format***, ...);**
**int fprintf(FILE *** *stream***, const char *** *format***, ...);**
**int sprintf(char *** *str***, const char *** *format***, ...);**
**int snprintf(char *** *str***, size_t** *size***, const char *** *format***, ...);**

...

**DESCRIPTION**

The functions in the **printf**() family produce output according to a *format* as described below. The functions **printf**() and **vprintf**() write output to *stdout*, the standard output stream; **fprintf**() and **vfprintf**() write output to the given output *stream*; **sprintf**(), **snprintf**(), **vsprintf**() and **vsnprintf**() write to the character string *str*.

The functions **snprintf**() and **vsnprintf**() write at most *size* bytes (including the trailing null byte ('\0')) to *str*.

The functions **vprintf**(), **vfprintf**(), **vsprintf**(), **vsnprintf**() are equivalent to the functions **printf**(), **fprintf**(), **sprintf**(), **snprintf**(), respectively, except that they are called with a *va_list* instead of a variable number of arguments. These functions do not call the *va_end* macro. Because they invoke the *va_arg* macro, the value of *ap* is undefined after the call. See **stdarg**(3).

These eight functions write the output under the control of a *format* string that specifies how subsequent arguments (or arguments accessed via the variable-length argument facilities of **stdarg**(3)) are converted for output.

**Return value**

Upon successful return, these functions return the number of characters printed (not including the trailing '\0' used to end output to strings).

The functions **snprintf**() and **vsnprintf**() do not write more than *size* bytes (including the trailing '\0'). If the output was truncated due to this limit then the return value is the number of characters (not including the trailing '\0') which would have been written to the final string if enough space had been available. Thus, a return value of *size* or more means that the output was truncated. (See also below under NOTES.)

If an output error is encountered, a negative value is returned.

**Format of the format string**

The format string is a character string, beginning and ending in its initial shift state, if any. The format string is composed of zero or more directives: ordinary characters (not **%**), which are copied unchanged to the output stream; and conversion specifications, each of which results in fetching zero or more subsequent arguments. Each conversion specification is introduced by the character **%**, and ends with a *conversion specifier*. In between there may be (in this order) zero or more *flags*, an optional minimum *field width*, an optional *precision* and an optional *length modifier*.

The arguments must correspond properly (after type promotion) with the conversion specifier. By default, the arguments are used in the order given, where each '*' and each conversion specifier asks for the next argument (and it is an error if insufficiently many arguments are given). One can also specify explicitly which argument is taken, at each place where an argument is required, by writing "%m$" instead of '%' and "*m$" instead of '*', where the decimal integer m denotes the position in the argument list of the desired argument, indexed starting from 1. Thus,

```
printf("%*d", width, num);
```





and

```
printf("%2$*1$d", width, num);
```

are equivalent. The second style allows repeated references to the same argument. The C99 standard does not include the style using '$', which comes from the Single Unix Specification. If the style using '$' is used, it must be used throughout for all conversions taking an argument and all width and precision arguments, but it may be mixed with "%%" formats which do not consume an argument. There may be no gaps in the numbers of arguments specified using '$'; for example, if arguments 1 and 3 are specified, argument 2 must also be specified somewhere in the format string.

For some numeric conversions a radix character ("decimal point") or thousands' grouping character is used. The actual character used depends on the **LC_NUMERIC** part of the locale. The POSIX locale uses '.' as radix character, and does not have a grouping character. Thus,

```
printf("%'.2f", 1234567.89);
```

results in "1234567.89" in the POSIX locale, in "1234567,89" in the nl_NL locale, and in "1.234.567,89" in the da_DK locale.

**The conversion specifier**

A character that specifies the type of conversion to be applied. An example for a conversion specifier is:

**s** The *const char* * argument is expected to be a pointer to an array of character type (pointer to a string). Characters from the array are written up to (but not including) a terminating null byte ('\0'); if a precision is specified, no more than the number specified are written. If a precision is given, no null byte need be present; if the precision is not specified, or is greater than the size of the array, the array must contain a terminating null byte.

**SEE ALSO**

**printf**(1), **asprintf**(3), **dprintf**(3), **scanf**(3), **setlocale**(3), **wcrtomb**(3), **wprintf**(3), **locale**(5)

**COLOPHON**

This page is part of release 3.05 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, and information about reporting bugs, can be found at http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/.