accept(3)

NAME

accept - accept a connection on a socket

SYNOPSIS

#include <sys/types.h> #include <sys/socket.h>

int accept(int s, struct sockaddr *addr, int *addrlen);

DESCRIPTION

The argument *s* is a socket that has been created with **socket**(3N) and bound to an address with **bind**(3N), and that is listening for connections after a call to **listen**(3N). The **accept**() function extracts the first connection on the queue of pending connections, creates a new socket with the properties of *s*, and allocates a new file descriptor, *ns*, for the socket. If no pending connections are present on the queue and the socket is not marked as non-blocking, **accept**() blocks the caller until a connection is present. If the socket is marked as non-blocking and no pending connections are present on the queue, **accept**() returns an error as described below. The **accept**() function uses the **netconfig**(4) file to determine the STREAMS device file name associated with *s*. This is the device on which the connect indication will be accepted. The accepted socket, *ns*, is used to read and write data to and from the socket that connected to *ns*; it is not used to accept more connections.

The argument addr is a result parameter that is filled in with the address of the connecting entity as it is known to the communications layer. The exact format of the addr parameter is determined by the domain in which the communication occurs.

The argument *addrlen* is a value-result parameter. Initially, it contains the amount of space pointed to by *addr*; on return it contains the length in bytes of the address returned.

The accept() function is used with connection-based socket types, currently with SOCK_STREAM.

It is possible to **select**(3C) or **poll**(2) a socket for the purpose of an **accept**() by selecting or polling it for a read. However, this will only indicate when a connect indication is pending; it is still necessary to call **accept**().

RETURN VALUES

The accept() function returns -1 on error. If it succeeds, it returns a non-negative integer that is a descriptor for the accepted socket.

ERRORS

accept() will fail if:

EBADF	The descriptor is invalid.
EINTR	The accept attempt was interrupted by the delivery of a signal.
EMFILE	The per-process descriptor table is full.
ENODEV	The protocol family and type corresponding to s could not be found in the netcon-fig file.
ENOMEM	There was insufficient user memory available to complete the operation.
EPROTO	A protocol error has occurred; for example, the STREAMS protocol stack has not been initialized or the connection has already been released.
EWOULDBLOCK	The socket is marked as non-blocking and no connections are present to be accepted.
SEE ALSO	

poll(2), bind(3N), connect(3N), listen(3N), select(3C), socket(3N), netconfig(4), attributes(5), socket(5)

NAME

bind - bind a name to a socket

SYNOPSIS

#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/socket.h>

int bind(int s, const struct sockaddr *name, int namelen);

DESCRIPTION

bind() assigns a name to an unnamed socket. When a socket is created with **socket**(3N), it exists in a name space (address family) but has no name assigned. **bind**() requests that the name pointed to by *name* be assigned to the socket.

RETURN VALUES

If the bind is successful, 0 is returned. A return value of -1 indicates an error, which is further specified in the global **errno**.

ERRORS

The **bind()** call will fail if:

EACCES	The requested address is protected and the current user has inadequate permission to access it.	
EADDRINUSE	The specified address is already in use.	
EADDRNOTAVAIL	The specified address is not available on the local machine.	
EBADF	s is not a valid descriptor.	
EINVAL	namelen is not the size of a valid address for the specified address family.	
EINVAL	The socket is already bound to an address.	
ENOSR	There were insufficient STREAMS resources for the operation to complete.	
ENOTSOCK	s is a descriptor for a file, not a socket.	
The following errors are specific to binding names in the UNIX domain:		
EACCES	Search permission is denied for a component of the path prefix of the pathname in <i>name</i> .	
EIO	An I/O error occurred while making the directory entry or allocating the inode.	
EISDIR	A null pathname was specified.	
ELOOP	Too many symbolic links were encountered in translating the pathname in name.	
ENOENT	A component of the path prefix of the pathname in name does not exist.	
ENOTDIR	A component of the path prefix of the pathname in name is not a directory.	
EROFS	The inode would reside on a read-only file system.	

SEE ALSO

unlink(2), socket(3N), attributes(5), socket(5)

NOTES

Binding a name in the UNIX domain creates a socket in the file system that must be deleted by the caller when it is no longer needed (using **unlink**(2)).

The rules used in name binding vary between communication domains.

opendir/readdir(3)

NAME

opendir - open a directory / readdir - read a directory

SYNOPSIS

#include <sys/types.h>

#include <dirent.h>

DIR *opendir(const char *name);

struct dirent *readdir(DIR *dir); int readdir_r(DIR *dirp, struct dirent *entry, struct dirent **result);

DESCRIPTION opendir

The **opendir**() function opens a directory stream corresponding to the directory *name*, and returns a pointer to the directory stream. The stream is positioned at the first entry in the directory.

RETURN VALUE

The opendir() function returns a pointer to the directory stream or NULL if an error occurred.

DESCRIPTION readdir

The **readdir**() function returns a pointer to a dirent structure representing the next directory entry in the directory stream pointed to by *dir*. It returns NULL on reaching the end-of-file or if an error occurred.

DESCRIPTION readdir_r

The **readdir_r**() function initializes the structure referenced by *entry* and stores a pointer to this structure in *result*. On successful return, the pointer returned at **result* will have the same value as the argument *entry*. Upon reaching the end of the directory stream, this pointer will have the value NULL.

The data returned by **readdir**() is overwritten by subsequent calls to **readdir**() for the **same** directory stream.

The *dirent* structure is defined as follows:

struct dirent {

```
      long
      d_ino;
      /* inode number */

      off_t
      d_off;
      /* offset to the next dirent */

      unsigned short
      d_reclen;
      /* length of this record */

      unsigned char
      d_type;
      /* type of file */

      char
      d_name[256];
      /* filename */
```

RETURN VALUE

The **readdir**() function returns a pointer to a dirent structure, or NULL if an error occurs or end-of-file is reached.

readdir_r() returns 0 if successful or an error number to indicate failure.

ERRORS

EACCES

};

Permission denied.

ENOENT

Directory does not exist, or name is an empty string.

ENOTDIR

name is not a directory.

NAME

fopen, fdopen - stream open functions

SYNOPSIS

#include <stdio.h>

FILE *fopen(const char * path, const char *mode);
FILE *fdopen(int fildes, const char *mode);

DESCRIPTION

The **fopen** function opens the file whose name is the string pointed to by *path* and associates a stream with it.

The argument *mode* points to a string beginning with one of the following sequences (Additional characters may follow these sequences.):

- r Open text file for reading. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.
- r+ Open for reading and writing. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.
- w Truncate file to zero length or create text file for writing. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.
- w+ Open for reading and writing. The file is created if it does not exist, otherwise it is truncated. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.
- **a** Open for appending (writing at end of file). The file is created if it does not exist. The stream is positioned at the end of the file.
- a+ Open for reading and appending (writing at end of file). The file is created if it does not exist. The stream is positioned at the end of the file.

The **fdopen** function associates a stream with the existing file descriptor, *fildes*. The *mode* of the stream (one of the values "r", "r+", "w", "w+", "a", "a+") must be compatible with the mode of the file descriptor. The file position indicator of the new stream is set to that belonging to *fildes*, and the error and end-of-file indicators are cleared. Modes "w" or "w+" do not cause truncation of the file. The file descriptor is not dup'ed, and will be closed when the stream created by **fdopen** is closed. The result of applying **fdopen** to a shared memory object is undefined.

RETURN VALUE

Upon successful completion **fopen**, **fdopen** and **freopen** return a **FILE** pointer. Otherwise, **NULL** is returned and the global variable *errno* is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS EINVAL

The mode provided to fopen, fdopen, or freopen was invalid.

The **fopen**, **fdopen** and **freopen** functions may also fail and set *errno* for any of the errors specified for the routine **malloc**(3).

The fopen function may also fail and set errno for any of the errors specified for the routine open(2).

The fdopen function may also fail and set errno for any of the errors specified for the routine fcntl(2).

SEE ALSO

open(2), fclose(3), fileno(3)

getc/fgets(3)

NAME

fgetc, fgets, getc, getchar, gets, ungetc - input of characters and strings

SYNOPSIS

#include <stdio.h>

int fgetc(FILE *stream); char *fgets(char *s, int size, FILE *stream); int getc(FILE *stream); int getchar(void); char *gets(char *s); int ungetc(int c, FILE *stream);

DESCRIPTION

fgetc() reads the next character from *stream* and returns it as an *unsigned char* cast to an *int*, or EOF on end of file or error.

getc() is equivalent to fgetc() except that it may be implemented as a macro which evaluates *stream* more than once.

getchar() is equivalent to getc(stdin).

gets() reads a line from *stdin* into the buffer pointed to by *s* until either a terminating newline or **EOF**, which it replaces with '**\0**'. No check for buffer overrun is performed (see **BUGS** below).

fgets() reads in at most one less than *size* characters from *stream* and stores them into the buffer pointed to by *s*. Reading stops after an EOF or a newline. If a newline is read, it is stored into the buffer. A '\0' is stored after the last character in the buffer.

ungetc() pushes *c* back to *stream*, cast to *unsigned char*, where it is available for subsequent read operations. Pushed-back characters will be returned in reverse order; only one pushback is guaranteed.

Calls to the functions described here can be mixed with each other and with calls to other input functions from the *stdio* library for the same input stream.

For non-locking counterparts, see unlocked_stdio(3).

RETURN VALUE

fgetc(), getc() and getchar() return the character read as an *unsigned char* cast to an *int* or EOF on end of file or error.

gets() and fgets() return s on success, and NULL on error or when end of file occurs while no characters have been read.

ungetc() returns *c* on success, or EOF on error.

CONFORMING TO

C89, C99. LSB deprecates gets().

BUGS

Never use **gets**(). Because it is impossible to tell without knowing the data in advance how many characters **gets**() will read, and because **gets**() will continue to store characters past the end of the buffer, it is extremely dangerous to use. It has been used to break computer security. Use **fgets**() instead.

It is not advisable to mix calls to input functions from the *stdio* library with low-level calls to **read**(2) for the file descriptor associated with the input stream; the results will be undefined and very probably not what you want.

SEE ALSO

 $read(2), write(2), ferror(3), fgetwc(3), fgetws(3), fopen(3), fread(3), fseek(3), getline(3), getwchar(3), puts(3), scanf(3), ungetwc(3), unlocked_stdio(3)$

NAME

ip - Linux IPv4 protocol implementation

SYNOPSIS

#include <sys/socket.h>
#include <netinet/in.h>

tcp_socket = socket(PF_INET, SOCK_STREAM, 0);
raw_socket = socket(PF_INET, SOCK_RAW, protocol);
udp_socket = socket(PF_INET, SOCK_DGRAM, protocol);

DESCRIPTION

The programmer's interface is BSD sockets compatible. For more information on sockets, see socket(7).

An IP socket is created by calling the **socket**(2) function as **socket**(**PF_INET**, **socket_type**, **protocol**). Valid socket types are **SOCK_STREAM** to open a **tp**(7) socket, **SOCK_DGRAM** to open a **udp**(7) socket, or **SOCK_RAW** to open a **raw**(7) socket to access the IP protocol directly. *protocol* is the IP protocol in the IP header to be received or sent. The only valid values for *protocol* are **0** and **IPPROTO_TCP** for TCP sockets and **0** and **IPPROTO_UDP** for UDP sockets.

When a process wants to receive new incoming packets or connections, it should bind a socket to a local interface address using **bind**(2). Only one IP socket may be bound to any given local (address, port) pair. When **INADDR_ANY** is specified in the bind call the socket will be bound to *all* local interfaces. When **listen**(2) or **connect**(2) are called on a unbound socket the socket is automatically bound to a random free port with the local address set to **INADDR_ANY**.

ADDRESS FORMAT

An IP socket address is defined as a combination of an IP interface address and a port number. The basic IP protocol does not supply port numbers, they are implemented by higher level protocols like **tcp**(7).

```
struct sockaddr_in {
    sa_family_t sin_family; /* address family: AF_INET */
    u_int16_t sin_port; /* port in network byte order */
    struct in_addr sin_addr; /* internet address */
};
/* Internet address. */
struct in_addr {
    u_int32_t s_addr; /* address in network byte order */
};
```

sin_family is always set to **AF_INET**. This is required; in Linux 2.2 most networking functions return **EINVAL** when this setting is missing. *sin_port* contains the port in network byte order. The port numbers below 1024 are called *reserved ports*. Only processes with effective user id 0 or the **CAP_NET_BIND_SERVICE** capability may **bind**(2) to these sockets.

sin_addr is the IP host address. The *addr* member of **struct in_addr** contains the host interface address in network order. **in_addr** should be only accessed using the **inet_aton**(3), **inet_addr**(3), **inet_makeaddr**(3) library functions or directly with the name resolver (see **gethostbyname**(3)).

Note that the address and the port are always stored in network order. In particular, this means that you need to call **htons**(3) on the number that is assigned to a port. All address/port manipulation functions in the standard library work in network order.

SEE ALSO

sendmsg(2), recvmsg(2), socket(7), netlink(7), tcp(7), udp(7), raw(7), ipfw(7)

pthread_cond(3)

pthread_cond(3)

pthread_cond(3)

NAME

pthread_cond_init, pthread_cond_destroy, pthread_cond_signal, pthread_cond_broadcast, pthread_cond_wait, pthread_cond_timedwait - operations on conditions

SYNOPSIS

#include <pthread.h>

pthread_cond_t cond = PTHREAD_COND_INITIALIZER;

int pthread_cond_init(pthread_cond_t *cond, pthread_condattr_t *cond_attr);

int pthread_cond_signal(pthread_cond_t *cond);

int pthread_cond_broadcast(pthread_cond_t *cond);

int pthread_cond_wait(pthread_cond_t *cond, pthread_mutex_t *mutex);

int pthread_cond_timedwait(pthread_cond_t *cond, pthread_mutex_t *mutex, const struct timespec
*abstime);

int pthread_cond_destroy(pthread_cond_t *cond);

DESCRIPTION

A condition (short for "condition variable") is a synchronization device that allows threads to suspend execution and relinquish the processors until some predicate on shared data is satisfied. The basic operations on conditions are: signal the condition (when the predicate becomes true), and wait for the condition, suspending the thread execution until another thread signals the condition.

A condition variable must always be associated with a mutex, to avoid the race condition where a thread prepares to wait on a condition variable and another thread signals the condition just before the first thread actually waits on it.

pthread_cond_init initializes the condition variable *cond*, using the condition attributes specified in *cond_attr*, or default attributes if *cond_attr* is **NULL**. The LinuxThreads implementation supports no attributes for conditions, hence the *cond_attr* parameter is actually ignored.

Variables of type **pthread_cond_t** can also be initialized statically, using the constant **PTHREAD_COND_INITIALIZER**.

pthread_cond_signal restarts one of the threads that are waiting on the condition variable *cond*. If no threads are waiting on *cond*, nothing happens. If several threads are waiting on *cond*, exactly one is restarted, but it is not specified which.

pthread_cond_broadcast restarts all the threads that are waiting on the condition variable *cond*. Nothing happens if no threads are waiting on *cond*.

pthread_cond_wait atomically unlocks the *mutex* (as per pthread_unlock_mutex) and waits for the condition variable *cond* to be signaled. The thread execution is suspended and does not consume any CPU time until the condition variable is signaled. The *mutex* must be locked by the calling thread on entrance to pthread_cond_wait. Before returning to the calling thread, pthread_cond_wait re-acquires *mutex* (as per pthread_lock_mutex).

Unlocking the mutex and suspending on the condition variable is done atomically. Thus, if all threads always acquire the mutex before signaling the condition, this guarantees that the condition cannot be

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signaled (and thus ignored) between the time a thread locks the mutex and the time it waits on the condition variable.

pthread_cond_timedwait atomically unlocks *mutex* and waits on *cond*, as pthread_cond_wait does, but it also bounds the duration of the wait. If *cond* has not been signaled within the amount of time specified by *abstime*, the mutex *mutex* is re-acquired and pthread_cond_timedwait returns the error ETIMEDOUT. The *abstime* parameter specifies an absolute time, with the same origin as time(2) and gettimeofday(2): an *abstime* of 0 corresponds to 00:00:00 GMT, January 1, 1970.

pthread_cond_destroy destroys a condition variable, freeing the resources it might hold. No threads must be waiting on the condition variable on entrance to pthread_cond_destroy. In the LinuxThreads implementation, no resources are associated with condition variables, thus pthread_cond_destroy actually does nothing except checking that the condition has no waiting threads.

CANCELLATION

pthread_cond_wait and **pthread_cond_timedwait** are cancellation points. If a thread is cancelled while suspended in one of these functions, the thread immediately resumes execution, then locks again the *mutex* argument to **pthread_cond_wait** and **pthread_cond_timedwait**, and finally executes the cancellation. Consequently, cleanup handlers are assured that *mutex* is locked when they are called.

ASYNC-SIGNAL SAFETY

The condition functions are not async-signal safe, and should not be called from a signal handler. In particular, calling **pthread_cond_signal** or **pthread_cond_broadcast** from a signal handler may deadlock the calling thread.

RETURN VALUE

All condition variable functions return 0 on success and a non-zero error code on error.

ERRORS

pthread_cond_init, pthread_cond_signal, pthread_cond_broadcast, and pthread_cond_wait never return an error code.

The pthread_cond_timedwait function returns the following error codes on error:

ETIMEDOUT

the condition variable was not signaled until the timeout specified by abstime

EINTR

pthread_cond_timedwait was interrupted by a signal

The pthread_cond_destroy function returns the following error code on error:

EBUSY

some threads are currently waiting on cond.

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SEE ALSO

 $pthread_condattr_init(3), \quad pthread_mutex_lock(3), \quad pthread_mutex_unlock(3), \quad gettimeofday(2), \\ nanosleep(2).$

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pthread_create/pthread_exit(3)

pthread_mutex(3)

NAME

pthread_create - create a new thread / pthread_exit - terminate the calling thread

SYNOPSIS

#include <pthread.h>

int pthread_create(pthread_t * thread, pthread_attr_t * attr, void * (*start_routine)(void *), void *
arg);

void pthread_exit(void *retval);

DESCRIPTION

pthread_create creates a new thread of control that executes concurrently with the calling thread. The new thread applies the function *start_routine* passing it *arg* as first argument. The new thread terminates either explicitly, by calling **pthread_exit**(3), or implicitly, by returning from the *start_routine* function. The latter case is equivalent to calling **pthread_exit**(3) with the result returned by *start_routine* as exit code.

The *attr* argument specifies thread attributes to be applied to the new thread. See **pthread_attr_init**(3) for a complete list of thread attributes. The *attr* argument can also be **NULL**, in which case default attributes are used: the created thread is joinable (not detached) and has default (non real-time) scheduling policy.

pthread_exit terminates the execution of the calling thread. All cleanup handlers that have been set for the calling thread with **pthread_cleanup_push**(3) are executed in reverse order (the most recently pushed handler is executed first). Finalization functions for thread-specific data are then called for all keys that have non-**NULL** values associated with them in the calling thread (see **pthread_key_create**(3)). Finally, execution of the calling thread is stopped.

The *retval* argument is the return value of the thread. It can be consulted from another thread using **pthread_join**(3).

RETURN VALUE

On success, the identifier of the newly created thread is stored in the location pointed by the *thread* argument, and a 0 is returned. On error, a non-zero error code is returned.

The pthread_exit function never returns.

ERRORS

EAGAIN

not enough system resources to create a process for the new thread.

EAGAIN

more than PTHREAD_THREADS_MAX threads are already active.

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SEE ALSO

pthread_join(3), pthread_detach(3), pthread_attr_init(3).

NAME

pthread_mutex_init, pthread_mutex_lock, pthread_mutex_trylock, pthread_mutex_destroy – operations on mutexes

SYNOPSIS

#include <pthread.h>

pthread_mutex_t fastmutex = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;

pthread_mutex_t recmutex = PTHREAD_RECURSIVE_MUTEX_INITIALIZER_NP;

pthread_mutex_t errchkmutex = PTHREAD_ERRORCHECK_MUTEX_INITIALIZER_NP;

int pthread_mutex_init(pthread_mutex_t *mutex, const pthread_mutexattr_t *mutexattr);

int pthread_mutex_lock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);

int pthread_mutex_trylock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);

int pthread_mutex_unlock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);

int pthread_mutex_destroy(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);

DESCRIPTION

A mutex is a MUTual EXclusion device, and is useful for protecting shared data structures from concurrent modifications, and implementing critical sections and monitors.

A mutex has two possible states: unlocked (not owned by any thread), and locked (owned by one thread). A mutex can never be owned by two different threads simultaneously. A thread attempting to lock a mutex that is already locked by another thread is suspended until the owning thread unlocks the mutex first.

pthread_mutex_init initializes the mutex object pointed to by *mutex* according to the mutex attributes specified in *mutexattr*. If *mutexattr* is **NULL**, default attributes are used instead.

The LinuxThreads implementation supports only one mutex attributes, the *mutex kind*, which is either "fast", "recursive", or "error checking". The kind of a mutex determines whether it can be locked again by a thread that already owns it. The default kind is "fast". See **pthread_mutexattr_init**(3) for more information on mutex attributes.

Variables of type **pthread_mutex_t** can also be initialized statically, using the constants **PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER** (for fast mutexes), **PTHREAD_RECURSIVE_MUTEX_INITIALIZER_NP** (for recursive mutexes), and **PTHREAD_ERRORCHECK_MUTEX_INITIAL-IZER_NP** (for error checking mutexes).

pthread_mutex_lock locks the given mutex. If the mutex is currently unlocked, it becomes locked and owned by the calling thread, and **pthread_mutex_lock** returns immediately. If the mutex is already locked by another thread, **pthread_mutex_lock** suspends the calling thread until the mutex is unlocked.

If the mutex is already locked by the calling thread, the behavior of **pthread_mutex_lock** depends on the kind of the mutex. If the mutex is of the "fast" kind, the calling thread is suspended until the mutex is unlocked, thus effectively causing the calling thread to deadlock. If the mutex is of the "error checking" kind, **pthread_mutex_lock** returns immediately with the error code **EDEADLK**. If the mutex is of the "recursive" kind, **pthread_mutex_lock** succeeds and returns immediately, recording the number of times the calling thread has locked the mutex. An equal number of **pthread_mutex_unlock** operations must be

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pthread_mutex(3)

socket(3)

performed before the mutex returns to the unlocked state.

pthread_mutex_trylock behaves identically to **pthread_mutex_lock**, except that it does not block the calling thread if the mutex is already locked by another thread (or by the calling thread in the case of a "fast" mutex). Instead, **pthread_mutex_trylock** returns immediately with the error code **EBUSY**.

pthread_mutex_unlock unlocks the given mutex. The mutex is assumed to be locked and owned by the calling thread on entrance to pthread_mutex_unlock. If the mutex is of the "fast" kind, pthread_mutex_unlock always returns it to the unlocked state. If it is of the "recursive" kind, it decrements the locking count of the mutex (number of pthread_mutex_lock operations performed on it by the calling thread), and only when this count reaches zero is the mutex actually unlocked.

On "error checking" mutexes, **pthread_mutex_unlock** actually checks at run-time that the mutex is locked on entrance, and that it was locked by the same thread that is now calling **pthread_mutex_unlock**. If these conditions are not met, an error code is returned and the mutex remains unchanged. "Fast" and "recursive" mutexes perform no such checks, thus allowing a locked mutex to be unlocked by a thread other than its owner. This is non-portable behavior and must not be relied upon.

pthread_mutex_destroy destroys a mutex object, freeing the resources it might hold. The mutex must be unlocked on entrance. In the LinuxThreads implementation, no resources are associated with mutex objects, thus pthread_mutex_destroy actually does nothing except checking that the mutex is unlocked.

RETURN VALUE

pthread_mutex_init always returns 0. The other mutex functions return 0 on success and a non-zero error code on error.

ERRORS

The pthread_mutex_lock function returns the following error code on error:

EINVAL

the mutex has not been properly initialized.

EDEADLK

the mutex is already locked by the calling thread ("error checking" mutexes only).

The pthread_mutex_unlock function returns the following error code on error:

EINVAL

the mutex has not been properly initialized.

EPERM

the calling thread does not own the mutex ("error checking" mutexes only).

The pthread_mutex_destroy function returns the following error code on error:

EBUSY

the mutex is currently locked.

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SEE ALSO

pthread_mutexattr_init(3), pthread_mutexattr_setkind_np(3), pthread_cancel(3).

2

NAME

socket - create an endpoint for communication

SYNOPSIS

#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/socket.h>

int socket(int domain, int type, int protocol);

DESCRIPTION

socket() creates an endpoint for communication and returns a descriptor.

The *domain* parameter specifies a communications domain within which communication will take place; this selects the protocol family which should be used. The protocol family generally is the same as the address family for the addresses supplied in later operations on the socket. The currently understood formats are:

PF_INET ARPA Internet protocols

The socket has the indicated *type*, which specifies the communication semantics. Currently defined types are:

SOCK_STREAM SOCK DGRAM

A **SOCK_STREAM** type provides sequenced, reliable, two-way connection-based byte streams. An out-ofband data transmission mechanism may be supported. A **SOCK_DGRAM** socket supports datagrams (connectionless, unreliable messages of a fixed (typically small) maximum length).

protocol specifies a particular protocol to be used with the socket. Normally only a single protocol exists to support a particular socket type within a given protocol family. However, multiple protocols may exist, in which case a particular protocol must be specified in this manner. The protocol number to use is particular to the "communication domain" in which communication is to take place. If a protocol is specified by the caller, then it will be packaged into a socket level option request and sent to the underlying protocol layers.

Sockets of type **SOCK_STREAM** are full-duplex byte streams, similar to pipes. A stream socket must be in a *connected* state before any data may be sent or received on it. A connection to another socket is created with a **connect**(3N) call. Once connected, data may be transferred using **read**(2) and **write**(2) calls or some variant of the **send**(3N) and **recv**(3N) calls. When a session has been completed, a **close**(2) may be performed. Out-of-band data may also be transmitted as described on the **send**(3N) manual page.

The communications protocols used to implement a **SOCK_STREAM** insure that data is not lost or duplicated. If a piece of data for which the peer protocol has buffer space cannot be successfully transmitted within a reasonable length of time, then the connection is considered broken and calls will indicate an error with -1 returns and with **ETIMEDOUT** as the specific code in the global variable **errno**. A **SIGPIPE** signal is raised if a process sends on a broken stream; this causes naive processes, which do not handle the signal, to exit.

RETURN VALUES

A -1 is returned if an error occurs. Otherwise the return value is a descriptor referencing the socket.

ERRORS

The socket() call fails if:	
EACCES	Permission to create a socket of the specified type and/or protocol is denied.
EMFILE	The per-process descriptor table is full.
ENOMEM	Insufficient user memory is available.

SEE ALSO

close(2), read(2), write(2), accept(3N), bind(3N), connect(3N), listen(3N),