

**NAME**

inotify\_init, inotify\_init1 – initialize an inotify instance

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <sys/inotify.h>
```

```
int inotify_init(void);
```

```
int inotify_init1(int flags);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

For an overview of the inotify API, see **inotify(7)**.

**inotify\_init()** initializes a new inotify instance and returns a file descriptor associated with a new inotify event queue.

If *flags* is 0, then **inotify\_init1()** is the same as **inotify\_init()**. The following values can be bitwise ORed in *flags* to obtain different behavior:

**IN\_NONBLOCK**

Set the **O\_NONBLOCK** file status flag on the open file description (see **open(2)**) referred to by the new file descriptor. Using this flag saves extra calls to **fcntl(2)** to achieve the same result.

**IN\_CLOEXEC**

Set the close-on-exec (**FD\_CLOEXEC**) flag on the new file descriptor. See the description of the **O\_CLOEXEC** flag in **open(2)** for reasons why this may be useful.

**RETURN VALUE**

On success, these system calls return a new file descriptor. On error, **-1** is returned, and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

**ERRORS****EINVAL**

(**inotify\_init1()**) An invalid value was specified in *flags*.

**EMFILE**

The user limit on the total number of inotify instances has been reached.

**EMFILE**

The per-process limit on the number of open file descriptors has been reached.

**ENFILE**

The system-wide limit on the total number of open files has been reached.

**ENOMEM**

Insufficient kernel memory is available.

**VERSIONS**

**inotify\_init()** first appeared in Linux 2.6.13; library support was added to glibc in version 2.4. **inotify\_init1()** was added in Linux 2.6.27; library support was added to glibc in version 2.9.

**CONFORMING TO**

These system calls are Linux-specific.

**SEE ALSO**

**inotify\_add\_watch(2)**, **inotify\_rm\_watch(2)**, **inotify(7)**

**COLOPHON**

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