

**NAME**

`switch_root` – switch to another filesystem as the root of the mount tree

**SYNOPSIS**

`switch_root [-hV]`

`switch_root newroot init [arg...]`

**DESCRIPTION**

**switch\_root** moves already mounted `/proc`, `/dev`, `/sys` and `/run` to *newroot* and makes *newroot* the new root filesystem and starts *init* process.

**WARNING:** `switch_root` removes recursively all files and directories on the current root filesystem.

**OPTIONS**

**-h, --help**

Display help text and exit.

**-V, --version**

Display version information and exit.

**RETURN VALUE**

**switch\_root** returns 0 on success and 1 on failure.

**NOTES**

`switch_root` will fail to function if **newroot** is not the root of a mount. If you want to switch root into a directory that does not meet this requirement then you can first use a bind-mounting trick to turn any directory into a mount point:

```
mount --bind $DIR $DIR
```

**SEE ALSO**

**chroot(2)**, **init(8)**, **mkinitrd(8)**, **mount(8)**

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**AVAILABILITY**

The `switch_root` command is part of the `util-linux` package and is available from <https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>.