

**NAME**

*program\_invocation\_name*, *program\_invocation\_short\_name* – obtain name used to invoke calling program

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE      /* See feature_test_macros(7) */
#include <errno.h>

extern char *program_invocation_name;
extern char *program_invocation_short_name;
```

**DESCRIPTION**

*program\_invocation\_name* contains the name that was used to invoke the calling program. This is the same as the value of *argv[0]* in *main()*, with the difference that the scope of *program\_invocation\_name* is global.

*program\_invocation\_short\_name* contains the basename component of name that was used to invoke the calling program. That is, it is the same value as *program\_invocation\_name*, with all text up to and including the final slash (/), if any, removed.

These variables are automatically initialized by the glibc run-time startup code.

**CONFORMING TO**

These variables are GNU extensions, and should not be used in programs intended to be portable.

**NOTES**

The Linux-specific */proc/[number]/cmdline* file provides access to similar information.

**SEE ALSO**

**proc(5)**

**COLOPHON**

This page is part of release 5.02 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.