

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/>.