

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

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/>.