

NAME

`cpuid` – x86 CPUID access device

DESCRIPTION

CPUID provides an interface for querying information about the x86 CPU.

This device is accessed by **lseek**(2) or **pread**(2) to the appropriate CPUID level and reading in chunks of 16 bytes. A larger read size means multiple reads of consecutive levels.

The lower 32 bits of the file position is used as the incoming *%eax*, and the upper 32 bits of the file position as the incoming *%ecx*, the latter intended for "counting" *eax* levels like *eax=4*.

This driver uses `/dev/cpu/CPUNUM/cpuid`, where *CPUNUM* is the minor number, and on an SMP box will direct the access to CPU *CPUNUM* as listed in `/proc/cpuinfo`.

This file is protected so that it can be read only by the user *root*, or members of the group *root*.

NOTES

The CPUID instruction can be directly executed by a program using inline assembler. However this device allows convenient access to all CPUs without changing process affinity.

Most of the information in *cpuid* is reported by the kernel in cooked form either in `/proc/cpuinfo` or through subdirectories in `/sys/devices/system/cpu`. Direct CPUID access through this device should only be used in exceptional cases.

The *cpuid* driver is not auto-loaded. On modular kernels you might need to use the following command to load it explicitly before use:

```
$ modprobe cpuid
```

There is no support for CPUID functions that require additional input registers.

Very old x86 CPUs don't support CPUID.

SEE ALSO

cpuid(1)

Intel Corporation, Intel 64 and IA-32 Architectures Software Developer's Manual Volume 2A: Instruction Set Reference, A-M, 3-180 CPUID reference.

Intel Corporation, Intel Processor Identification and the CPUID Instruction, Application note 485.

COLOPHON

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