NAME

pivot_root − change the root filesystem

SYNOPSIS

pivot_root *new_root put_old*

DESCRIPTION

pivot_root moves the root file system of the current process to the directory *put_old* and makes *new_root* the new root file system. Since **pivot_root**(8) simply calls **pivot_root**(2), we refer to the man page of the latter for further details.

Note that, depending on the implementation of **pivot_root**, root and current working directory of the caller may or may not change. The following is a sequence for invoking **pivot_root** that works in either case, assuming that **pivot_root** and **chroot** are in the current **PATH**:

```
cd new_root
pivot_root . put_old
exec chroot . command
```

Note that **chroot** must be available under the old root and under the new root, because **pivot_root** may or may not have implicitly changed the root directory of the shell.

Note that **exec chroot** changes the running executable, which is necessary if the old root directory should be unmounted afterwards. Also note that standard input, output, and error may still point to a device on the old root file system, keeping it busy. They can easily be changed when invoking **chroot** (see below; note the absence of leading slashes to make it work whether **pivot_root** has changed the shell's root or not).

OPTIONS

−h, **−−help**
: Display help text and exit.

−V, **−−version**
: Print version and exit.

EXAMPLE

Change the root file system to */dev/hda1* from an interactive shell:

```
mount /dev/hda1 /new−root
cd /new−root
pivot_root . old−root
exec chroot . sh <dev/console >dev/console 2>&1
umount /old−root
```

Mount the new root file system over NFS from 10.0.0.1:/my_root and run **init**:

```
ifconfig lo 127.0.0.1 up   # for portmap
# configure Ethernet or such
portmap   # for lockd (implicitly started by mount)
mount −o ro 10.0.0.1:/my_root /mnt
killall portmap   # portmap keeps old root busy
cd /mnt
pivot_root . old_root
exec chroot . sh −c 'umount /old_root; exec /sbin/init' \
  <dev/console >dev/console 2>&1
```

SEE ALSO

chroot(1), **pivot_root**(2), **mount**(8), **switch_root**(8), **umount**(8)

REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker at https://github.com/util−linux/util−linux/issues.

AVAILABILITY

The **pivot_root** command is part of the util−linux package which can be downloaded from Linux Kernel Archive <https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util−linux/>.