#### **NAME**

rpc – library routines for remote procedure calls

#### **LIBRARY**

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

#### SYNOPSIS AND DESCRIPTION

These routines allow C programs to make procedure calls on other machines across the network. First, the client calls a procedure to send a data packet to the server. Upon receipt of the packet, the server calls a dispatch routine to perform the requested service, and then sends back a reply. Finally, the procedure call returns to the client.

To take use of these routines, include the header file < rpc/rpc.h >.

The prototypes below make use of the following types:

See the header files for the declarations of the AUTH, CLIENT, SVCXPRT, and XDR types.

## void auth\_destroy(AUTH \*auth);

A macro that destroys the authentication information associated with *auth*. Destruction usually involves deallocation of private data structures. The use of *auth* is undefined after calling **auth\_destroy**().

#### **AUTH** \*authnone\_create(void);

Create and return an RPC authentication handle that passes nonusable authentication information with each remote procedure call. This is the default authentication used by RPC.

```
AUTH *authunix_create(char *host, uid_t uid, gid_t gid, int len, gid_t aup_gids[.len]);
```

Create and return an RPC authentication handle that contains authentication information. The parameter *host* is the name of the machine on which the information was created; *uid* is the user's user ID; *gid* is the user's current group ID; *len* and *aup\_gids* refer to a counted array of groups to which the user belongs. It is easy to impersonate a user.

## AUTH \*authunix\_create\_default(void);

Calls authunix\_create() with the appropriate parameters.

```
int callrpc(char *host, unsigned long prognum,
```

```
unsigned long versnum, unsigned long procnum,
xdrproc_t inproc, const char *in,
xdrproc_t outproc, char *out);
```

Call the remote procedure associated with *prognum*, *versnum*, and *procnum* on the machine, *host*. The parameter *in* is the address of the procedure's argument(s), and *out* is the address of where to place the result(s); *inproc* is used to encode the procedure's parameters, and *outproc* is used to decode the procedure's results. This routine returns zero if it succeeds, or the value of **enum clnt\_stat** cast to an integer if it fails. The routine**clnt\_perr no**() is handy for translating failure statuses into messages.

Warning: calling remote procedures with this routine uses UDP/IP as a transport; see **clntudp\_create**() for restrictions. You do not have control of timeouts or authentication using this routine.

```
enum clnt_stat clnt_broadcast(unsigned long prognum,
```

```
unsigned long versnum, unsigned long procnum,
xdrproc_t inproc, char *in,
```

```
xdrproc_t outproc, char *out,
resultproc_t eachresult);
```

Like **callrpc**(), except the call message is broadcast to all locally connected broadcast nets. Each time it receives a response, this routine calls **eachresult**(), whose form is:

```
eachresult(char *out, struct sockaddr_in *addr);
```

where *out* is the same as *out* passed to **clnt\_broadcast**(), except that the remote procedure's output is decoded there; *addr* points to the address of the machine that sent the results. If **eachresult**() returns zero, **clnt\_broadcast**() waits for more replies; otherwise it returns with appropriate status

Warning: broadcast sockets are limited in size to the maximum transfer unit of the data link. For ethernet, this value is 1500 bytes.

# 

```
xdrproc_t inproc, char *m,
xdrproc_t outproc, char *out,
struct timeval tout);
```

A macro that calls the remote procedure *procnum* associated with the client handle, *clnt*, which is obtained with an RPC client creation routine such as **clnt\_create()**. The parameter *in* is the address of the procedure's argument(s), and *out* is the address of where to place the result(s); *inproc* is used to encode the procedure's parameters, and *outproc* is used to decode the procedure's results; *tout* is the time allowed for results to come back.

# clnt\_destroy(CLIENT \*clnt);

A macro that destroys the client's RPC handle. Destruction usually involves deallocation of private data structures, including *clnt* itself. Use of *clnt* is undefined after calling **clnt\_destroy**(). If the RPC library opened the associated socket, it will close it also. Otherwise, the socket remains open.

# CLIENT \*clnt\_create(const char \*host, unsigned long prog, unsigned long vers, const char \*proto);

Generic client creation routine. *host* identifies the name of the remote host where the server is located. *proto* indicates which kind of transport protocol to use. The currently supported values for this field are "udp" and "tcp". Default timeouts are set, but can be modified using **clnt control**().

Warning: using UDP has its shortcomings. Since UDP-based RPC messages can hold only up to 8 Kbytes of encoded data, this transport cannot be used for procedures that take large arguments or return huge results.

## bool\_t clnt\_control(CLIENT \*cl, int req, char \*info);

A macro used to change or retrieve various information about a client object. req indicates the type of operation, and info is a pointer to the information. For both UDP and TCP, the supported values of req and their argument types and what they do are:

```
CLSET_TIMEOUT struct timeval // set total timeout
CLGET_TIMEOUT struct timeval // get total timeout
```

Note: if you set the timeout using **clnt\_control**(), the timeout parameter passed to **clnt\_call**() will be ignored in all future calls.

The following operations are valid for UDP only:

```
CLSET_RETRY_TIMEOUT struct timeval // set the retry timeout
CLGET_RETRY_TIMEOUT struct timeval // get the retry timeout
```

The retry timeout is the time that "UDP RPC" waits for the server to reply before retransmitting the request.

#### clnt\_freeres(CLIENT \* clnt, xdrproc\_t outproc, char \*out);

A macro that frees any data allocated by the RPC/XDR system when it decoded the results of an RPC call. The parameter *out* is the address of the results, and *outproc* is the XDR routine describing the results. This routine returns one if the results were successfully freed, and zero otherwise.

## void clnt\_geterr(CLIENT \*clnt, struct rpc\_err \*errp);

A macro that copies the error structure out of the client handle to the structure at address *errp*.

#### void clnt\_pcreateerror(const char \*s);

Print a message to standard error indicating why a client RPC handle could not be created. The message is prepended with string *s* and a colon. Used when a **clnt\_create()**, **clntraw\_create()**, **clnttcp\_create()**, or **clntudp\_create()** call fails.

## void clnt perrno(enum clnt stat stat);

Print a message to standard error corresponding to the condition indicated by *stat*. Used after**call-rpc**().

## clnt\_perror(CLIENT \*clnt, const char \*s);

Print a message to standard error indicating why an RPC call failed; *clnt* is the handle used to do the call. The message is prepended with string *s* and a colon. Used after **clnt\_call**().

## char \*clnt\_spcreateerror(const char \*s);

Like **clnt\_pcreateerror**(), except that it returns a string instead of printing to the standard error.

Bugs: returns pointer to static data that is overwritten on each call.

#### char \*clnt sperrno(enum clnt stat stat);

Take the same arguments as **clnt\_perrno**(), but instead of sending a message to the standard error indicating why an RPC call failed, return a pointer to a string which contains the message. The string ends with a NEWLINE.

**clnt\_sperrno()** is used instead of **clnt\_perrno()** if the program does not have a standard error (as a program running as a server quite likely does not), or if the programmer does not want the message to be output with **printf(3)**, or if a message format different than that supported by **clnt\_perrno()** is to be used. Note: unlike **clnt\_sperror()** and **clnt\_spereateerror()**, **clnt\_sperrno()** returns pointer to static data, but the result will not get overwritten on each call.

## char \*clnt\_sperror(CLIENT \*rpch, const char \*s);

Like **clnt\_perror**(), except that (like **clnt\_sperrno**()) it returns a string instead of printing to standard error.

Bugs: returns pointer to static data that is overwritten on each call.

# **CLIENT** \*cIntraw\_create(unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum);

This routine creates a toy RPC client for the remote program *prognum*, version *versnum*. The transport used to pass messages to the service is actually a buffer within the process's address space, so the corresponding RPC server should live in the same address space; see **svcraw\_create()**. This allows simulation of RPC and acquisition of RPC overheads, such as round trip times, without any kernel interference. This routine returns NULL if it fails.

## CLIENT \*clnttcp\_create(struct sockaddr\_in \*addr,

unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum,

int \*sockp, unsigned int sendsz, unsigned int recvsz);

This routine creates an RPC client for the remote program *prognum*, version *versnum*; the client uses TCP/IP as a transport. The remote program is located at Internet address\*addr. If

addr->sin\_port is zero, then it is set to the actual port that the remote program is listening on (the remote **portmap** service is consulted for this information). The parameter sockp is a socket; if it is **RPC\_ANYSOCK**, then this routine opens a new one and sets sockp. Since TCP-based RPC uses buffered I/O, the user may specify the size of the send and receive buffers with the parameters sendsz and recvsz; values of zero choose suitable defaults. This routine returns NULL if it fails.

#### CLIENT \*clntudp\_create(struct sockaddr\_in \*addr,

unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum,
struct timeval wait, int \*sockp);

This routine creates an RPC client for the remote program *prognum*, version *versnum*; the client uses use UDP/IP as a transport. The remote program is located at Internet address *addr*. If *addr*—>*sin\_port* is zero, then it is set to actual port that the remote program is listening on (the remote **portmap** service is consulted for this information). The parameter *sockp* is a socket; if it is **RPC\_ANYSOCK**, then this routine opens a new one and sets *sockp*. The UDP transport resends the call message in intervals of *wait* time until a response is received or until the call times out. The total time for the call to time out is specified by **clnt\_call**().

Warning: since UDP-based RPC messages can hold only up to 8 Kbytes of encoded data, this transport cannot be used for procedures that take large arguments or return huge results.

## CLIENT \*clntudp\_bufcreate(struct sockaddr\_in \*addr,

unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum, struct timeval wait, int \*sockp, unsigned int sendsize, unsigned int recosize);

This routine creates an RPC client for the remote program *prognum*, on *versnum*; the client uses use UDP/IP as a transport. The remote program is located at Internet address *addr*. If *addr*—>*sin\_port* is zero, then it is set to actual port that the remote program is listening on (the remote **portmap** service is consulted for this information). The parameter *sockp* is a socket; if it is **RPC\_ANYSOCK**, then this routine opens a new one and sets *sockp*. The UDP transport resends the call message in intervals of *wait* time until a response is received or until the call times out. The total time for the call to time out is specified by **clnt\_call**().

This allows the user to specify the maximum packet size for sending and receiving UDP-based RPC messages.

## void get\_myaddress(struct sockaddr\_in \*addr);

Stuff the machine's IP address into\*addr, without consulting the library routines that deal with /etc/hosts. The port number is always set to htons(PMAPPORT).

#### struct pmaplist \*pmap\_getmaps(struct sockaddr\_in \*addr);

A user interface to the **portmap** service, which returns a list of the current RPC program-to-port mappings on the host located at IP address\*addr. This routine can return NULL. The command rpcinfo-p uses this routine.

## unsigned short pmap\_getport(struct sockaddr\_in \*addr,

unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum, unsigned int protocol);

A user interface to the **portmap** service, which returns the port number on which waits a service that supports program number *prognum*, version *versnum*, and speaks the transport protocol associated with *protocol*. The value of *protocol* is most likely **IPPROTO\_UDP** or **IPPROTO\_TCP**. A return value of zero means that the mapping does not exist or that the RPC system failed to contact the remote **portmap** service. In the latter case, the global variable *rpc\_createerr* contains the RPC status.

## enum clnt\_stat pmap\_rmtcall(struct sockaddr\_in \*addr,

unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum, unsigned long procnum,

rpc(3)

```
xdrproc_t inproc, char *in,
xdrproc_t outproc, char *out,
struct timeval tout, unsigned long *portp);
```

A user interface to the **portmap** service, which instructs **portmap** on the host at IP address \*addr to make an RPC call on your behalf to a procedure on that host. The parameter\*portp will be modified to the program's port number if the procedure succeeds. The definitions of other parameters are discussed in **callrpc()** and **clnt\_call()**. This procedure should be used for a "ping" and nothing else. See also **clnt\_broadcast()**.

## bool\_t pmap\_set(unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum,

int protocol, unsigned short port);

A user interface to the **portmap** service, which establishes a mapping between the triple [prognum, versnum, protocol] and port on the machine's **portmap** service. The value of protocol is most likely **IPPROTO\_UDP** or **IPPROTO\_TCP**. This routine returns one if it succeeds, zero otherwise. Automatically done bysvc\_r egister().

#### bool\_t pmap\_unset(unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum);

A user interface to the **portmap** service, which destroys all mapping between the triple [prognum, versnum,\*] and **ports** on the machine's **portmap** service. This routine returns one if it succeeds, zero otherwise.

## int registerrpc(unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum,

```
unsigned long procnum, char *(*procname)(char *),
xdrproc_t inproc, xdrproc_t outproc);
```

Register procedure *procname* with the RPC service package. If a request arrives for program *prognum*, version *versnum*, and procedure *procnum*, *procname* is called with a pointer to its parameter(s); *procname* should return a pointer to its static result(s); *inproc* is used to decode the parameters while *outproc* is used to encode the results. This routine returns zero if the registration succeeded, –1 otherwise.

Warning: remote procedures registered in this form are accessed using the UDP/IP transport; see **svcudp\_create**() for restrictions.

#### struct rpc\_createerr rpc\_createerr;

A global variable whose value is set by any RPC client creation routine that does not succeed. Use the routine **clnt\_pcreateerror**() to print the reason why.

# void svc\_destroy(SVCXPRT \*xprt);

A macro that destroys the RPC service transport handle, *xprt*. Destruction usually involves deallocation of private data structures, including *xprt* itself. Use of *xprt* is undefined after calling this routine.

## fd\_set svc\_fdset;

A global variable reflecting the RPC service side's read file descriptor bit mask; it is suitable as a parameter to the **select**(2) system call. This is of interest only if a service implementor does their own asynchronous event processing, instead of calling **svc\_run**(). This variable is read-only (do not pass its address to **select**(2)!), yet it may change after calls to **svc\_getreqset**() or any creation routines.

#### int svc\_fds;

Similar to svc\_fdset, but limited to 32 file descriptors. This interface is obsoleted by svc\_fdset.

## svc\_freeargs(SVCXPRT \*xprt, xdrproc\_t inproc, char \*in);

A macro that frees any data allocated by the RPC/XDR system when it decoded the arguments to a service procedure using **svc\_getargs**(). This routine returns 1 if the results were successfully freed, and zero otherwise.

## svc\_getargs(SVCXPRT \*xprt, xdrproc\_t inproc, char \*in);

A macro that decodes the arguments of an RPC request associated with the RPC service transport handle, *xprt*. The parameter*in* is the address where the arguments will be placed; *inproc* is the XDR routine used to decode the arguments. This routine returns one if decoding succeeds, and zero otherwise.

#### struct sockaddr\_in \*svc\_getcaller(SVCXPRT \*xprt);

The approved way of getting the network address of the caller of a procedure associated with the RPC service transport handle, *xprt*.

#### void svc\_getreqset(fd\_set \*rdfds);

This routine is of interest only if a service implementor does not call **svc\_run**(), but instead implements custom asynchronous event processing. It is called when the **select**(2) system call has determined that an RPC request has arrived on some RPC socket(s); *rdfds* is the resultant read file descriptor bit mask. The routine returns when all sockets associated with the value of *rdfds* have been serviced.

## void svc\_getreq(int rdfds);

Similar to **svc\_getreqset**(), but limited to 32 file descriptors. This interface is obsoleted by **svc\_getreqset**().

## bool\_t svc\_register(SVCXPRT \*xprt, unsigned long pr ognum,

```
unsigned long versnum,
void (*dispatch)(struct svc_req *, SVCXPRT *),
unsigned long protocol);
```

Associates *prognum* and *versnum* with the service dispatch procedure, *dispatch*. If *protocol* is zero, the service is not registered with the **portmap** service. If *protocol* is nonzero, then a mapping of the triple [*prognum*, *versnum*, *protocol*] to *xprt*->*xp\_port* is established with the local **portmap** service (generally *protocol* is zero, **IPPROTO\_UDP** or **IPPROTO\_TCP**). The procedure *dispatch* has the following form:

```
dispatch(struct svc_req *request, SVCXPRT *xprt);
```

The **svc\_register**() routine returns one if it succeeds, and zero otherwise.

## void svc\_run(void);

This routine never returns. It waits for RPC requests to arrive, and calls the appropriate service procedure using **svc\_getreq**() when one arrives. This procedure is usually waiting for a **select**(2) system call to return.

## bool\_t svc\_sendreply(SVCXPRT \*xprt, xdrproc\_t outproc, char \*out);

Called by an RPC service's dispatch routine to send the results of a remote procedure call. The parameter *xprt* is the request's associated transport handle; *outproc* is the XDR routine which is used to encode the results; and *out* is the address of the results. This routine returns one if it succeeds, zero otherwise.

# void svc\_unregister(unsigned long prognum, unsigned long versnum);

Remove all mapping of the double [prognum,versnum] to dispatch routines, and of the triple [prognum,versnum,\*] to port number.

## void svcerr\_auth(SVCXPRT \*xprt, enum auth\_stat why);

Called by a service dispatch routine that refuses to perform a remote procedure call due to an authentication error.

# void svcerr\_decode(SVCXPRT \*xprt);

Called by a service dispatch routine that cannot successfully decode its parameters. See also **svc\_getargs**().

## void svcerr\_noproc(SVCXPRT \*xprt);

Called by a service dispatch routine that does not implement the procedure number that the caller requests.

## void svcerr\_noprog(SVCXPRT \*xprt);

Called when the desired program is not registered with the RPC package. Service implementors usually do not need this routine.

## 

Called when the desired version of a program is not registered with the RPC package. Service implementors usually do not need this routine.

## void svcerr\_systemerr(SVCXPRT \*xprt);

Called by a service dispatch routine when it detects a system error not covered by any particular protocol. For example, if a service can no longer allocate storage, it may call this routine.

## void svcerr\_weakauth(SVCXPRT \*xprt);

Called by a service dispatch routine that refuses to perform a remote procedure call due to insufficient authentication parameters. The routine calls **svcerr\_auth(xprt, AUTH\_TOOWEAK)**.

# **SVCXPRT** \*svcfd\_create(int fd, unsigned int sendsize, unsigned int recvsize);

Create a service on top of any open file descriptor. Typically, this file descriptor is a connected socket for a stream protocol such as TCP. *sendsize* and *recvsize* indicate sizes for the send and receive buffers. If they are zero, a reasonable default is chosen.

#### SVCXPRT \*svcraw create(void);

This routine creates a toy RPC service transport, to which it returns a pointer. The transport is really a buffer within the process's address space, so the corresponding RPC client should live in the same address space; see **clntraw\_create()**. This routine allows simulation of RPC and acquisition of RPC overheads (such as round trip times), without any kernel interference. This routine returns NULL if it fails.

# **SVCXPRT** \*svctcp\_create(int sock, unsigned int send\_buf\_size, unsigned int recv\_buf\_size);

This routine creates a TCP/IP-based RPC service transport, to which it returns a pointer. The transport is associated with the socket *sock*, which may be **RPC\_ANYSOCK**, in which case a new socket is created. If the socket is not bound to a local TCP port, then this routine binds it to an arbitrary port. Upon completion,  $xprt->xp\_sock$  is the transport's socket descriptor, and  $xprt->xp\_port$  is the transport's port number. This routine returns NULL if it fails. Since TCP-based RPC uses buffered I/O, users may specify the size of buffers; values of zero choose suitable defaults.

# SVCXPRT \*svcudp\_bufcreate(int sock, unsigned int sendsize, unsigned int recosize);

This routine creates a UDP/IP-based RPC service transport, to which it returns a pointer. The transport is associated with the socket *sock*, which may be **RPC\_ANYSOCK**, in which case a new socket is created. If the socket is not bound to a local UDP port, then this routine binds it to an arbitrary port. Upon completion,  $xprt->xp\_sock$  is the transport's socket descriptor, and  $xprt->xp\_port$  is the transport's port number. This routine returns NULL if it fails.

This allows the user to specify the maximum packet size for sending and receiving UDP-based RPC messages.

# **SVCXPRT** \*svcudp\_create(int sock);

This call is equivalent to svcudp\_bufcreate(sock,SZ,SZ) for some default size SZ.

#### bool\_t xdr\_accepted\_reply(XDR \*xdrs, struct accepted\_reply \*ar);

Used for encoding RPC reply messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to generate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

#### bool\_t xdr\_authunix\_parms(XDR \*xdrs, struct authunix\_parms \*aupp);

Used for describing UNIX credentials. This routine is useful for users who wish to generate these credentials without using the RPC authentication package.

#### void xdr\_callhdr(XDR \*xdrs, struct rpc\_msg \*chdr);

Used for describing RPC call header messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to generate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

## bool\_t xdr\_callmsg(XDR \*xdrs, struct rpc\_msg \*cmsg);

Used for describing RPC call messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to generate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

#### bool\_t xdr\_opaque\_auth(XDR \*xdrs, struct opaque\_auth \*ap);

Used for describing RPC authentication information messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to generate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

## bool\_t xdr\_pmap(XDR \*xdrs, struct pmap \*regs);

Used for describing parameters to various **portmap** procedures, externally. This routine is useful for users who wish to generate these parameters without using the **pmap** interface.

## bool\_t xdr\_pmaplist(XDR \*xdrs, struct pmaplist \*\*rp);

Used for describing a list of port mappings, externally. This routine is useful for users who wish to generate these parameters without using the **pmap** interface.

#### bool\_t xdr\_rejected\_reply(XDR \*xdrs, struct rejected\_reply \*rr);

Used for describing RPC reply messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to generate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

## bool\_t xdr\_replymsg(XDR \*xdrs, struct rpc\_msg \*rmsg);

Used for describing RPC reply messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to generate RPC style messages without using the RPC package.

## void xprt\_register(SVCXPRT \*xprt);

After RPC service transport handles are created, they should register themselves with the RPC service package. This routine modifies the global variable *svc\_fds*. Service implementors usually do not need this routine.

## void xprt\_unregister(SVCXPRT \*xprt);

Before an RPC service transport handle is destroyed, it should unregister itself with the RPC service package. This routine modifies the global variable *svc\_fds*. Service implementors usually do not need this routine.

#### **ATTRIBUTES**

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see **attributes**(7).

Interface	Attribute	Value
auth_destroy(), authnone_create(), authunix_create(),	Thread safety	MT-Safe
authunix_create_default(), callrpc(), clnt_broadcast(), clnt_call(),		
<pre>clnt_destroy(), clnt_create(), clnt_control(), clnt_freeres(),</pre>		
<pre>clnt_geterr(), clnt_pcreateerror(), clnt_perror(), clnt_perror(),</pre>		
<pre>clnt_spcreateerror(), clnt_sperror(), clnt_sperror(), clntraw_create(),</pre>		
<pre>clnttcp_create(), clntudp_create(), clntudp_bufcreate(),</pre>		
get_myaddress(), pmap_getmaps(), pmap_getport(), pmap_rmtcall(),		
<pre>pmap_set(), pmap_unset(), registerrpc(), svc_destroy(), svc_freeargs(),</pre>		
svc_getargs(), svc_getcaller(), svc_getreqset(), svc_getreq(),		
svc_register(), svc_run(), svc_sendreply(), svc_unregister(),		
svcerr_auth(), svcerr_decode(), svcerr_noproc(), svcerr_noprog(),		
svcerr_progvers(), svcerr_systemerr(), svcerr_weakauth(),		
svcfd_create(), svcraw_create(), svctcp_create(), svcudp_bufcreate(),		
svcudp_create(), xdr_accepted_reply(), xdr_authunix_parms(),		
$xdr\_callhdr(), xdr\_callmsg(), xdr\_opaque\_auth(), xdr\_pmap(),\\$		
xdr_pmaplist(), xdr_rejected_reply(), xdr_replymsg(), xprt_register(),		
xprt_unregister()		

# **SEE ALSO**

**xdr**(3)

The following manuals:

Remote Procedure Calls: Protocol Specification Remote Procedure Call Programming Guide rpcgen Programming Guide

RPC: Remote Procedure Call Protocol Specification, RFC 1050, Sun Microsystems, Inc., USC-ISI.