**NAME**
>       acct − switch process accounting on or off

**LIBRARY**
>       Standard C library (*libc*, *−lc*)

**SYNOPSIS**
>       **#include <unistd.h>**
>
>       **int acct(const char \*_Nullable** *filename***);**

>   Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see **feature_test_macros**(7)):

>       **acct**():
>           Since glibc 2.21:
>               _DEFAULT_SOURCE
>           In glibc 2.19 and 2.20:
>               _DEFAULT_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)
>           Up to and including glibc 2.19:
>               _BSD_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)

**DESCRIPTION**
>       The **acct**() system call enables or disables process accounting. If called with the name of an existing file as
>       its argument, accounting is turned on, and records for each terminating process are appended to *filename* as
>       it terminates. An argument of NULL causes accounting to be turned off.

**RETURN VALUE**
>       On success, zero is returned. On error, −1 is returned, and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

**ERRORS**
>       **EACCES**
>               Write permission is denied for the specified file, or search permission is denied for one of the di-
>               rectories in the path prefix of *filename* (see also **path_resolution**(7)), or *filename* is not a regular
>               file.
>
>       **EFAULT**
>               *filename* points outside your accessible address space.
>
>       **EIO**     Error writing to the file *filename*.
>
>       **EISDIR**
>               *filename* is a directory.
>
>       **ELOOP**
>               Too many symbolic links were encountered in resolving *filename*.
>
>       **ENAMETOOLONG**
>               *filename* was too long.
>
>       **ENFILE**
>               The system-wide limit on the total number of open files has been reached.
>
>       **ENOENT**
>               The specified file does not exist.
>
>       **ENOMEM**
>               Out of memory.
>
>       **ENOSYS**
>               BSD process accounting has not been enabled when the operating system kernel was compiled.
>               The   kernel   configuration   parameter   controlling   this   feature   is   **CON-**
>               **FIG_BSD_PROCESS_ACCT**.

**ENOTDIR**
> A component used as a directory in *filename* is not in fact a directory.

**EPERM**
> The calling process has insufficient privilege to enable process accounting. On Linux, the **CAP_SYS_PACCT** capability is required.

**EROFS**
> *filename* refers to a file on a read-only filesystem.

**EUSERS**
> There are no more free file structures or we ran out of memory.

# STANDARDS
SVr4, 4.3BSD (but not POSIX).

# NOTES
No accounting is produced for programs running when a system crash occurs. In particular, nonterminating processes are never accounted for.

The structure of the records written to the accounting file is described in **acct**(5).

# SEE ALSO
**acct**(5)