

**NAME**

pthread\_exit – terminate calling thread

**LIBRARY**

POSIX threads library (*libpthread*, *-lpthread*)

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <pthread.h>
```

```
[[noreturn]] void pthread_exit(void *retval);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **pthread\_exit()** function terminates the calling thread and returns a value via *retval* that (if the thread is joinable) is available to another thread in the same process that calls **pthread\_join(3)**.

Any clean-up handlers established by **pthread\_cleanup\_push(3)** that have not yet been popped, are popped (in the reverse of the order in which they were pushed) and executed. If the thread has any thread-specific data, then, after the clean-up handlers have been executed, the corresponding destructor functions are called, in an unspecified order.

When a thread terminates, process-shared resources (e.g., mutexes, condition variables, semaphores, and file descriptors) are not released, and functions registered using **atexit(3)** are not called.

After the last thread in a process terminates, the process terminates as by calling **exit(3)** with an exit status of zero; thus, process-shared resources are released and functions registered using **atexit(3)** are called.

**RETURN VALUE**

This function does not return to the caller.

**ERRORS**

This function always succeeds.

**ATTRIBUTES**

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
<b>pthread_exit()</b>	Thread safety	MT-Safe

**STANDARDS**

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008.

**NOTES**

Performing a return from the start function of any thread other than the main thread results in an implicit call to **pthread\_exit()**, using the function's return value as the thread's exit status.

To allow other threads to continue execution, the main thread should terminate by calling **pthread\_exit()** rather than **exit(3)**.

The value pointed to by *retval* should not be located on the calling thread's stack, since the contents of that stack are undefined after the thread terminates.

**BUGS**

Currently, there are limitations in the kernel implementation logic for **wait(2)**ing on a stopped thread group with a dead thread group leader. This can manifest in problems such as a locked terminal if a stop signal is sent to a foreground process whose thread group leader has already called **pthread\_exit()**.

**SEE ALSO**

**pthread\_create(3)**, **pthread\_join(3)**, **pthreads(7)**