

NAME

setcap – set file capabilities

SYNOPSIS

setcap [-q] [-n <rootuid>] [-v] {*capabilities*/-/-r} *filename* [... *capabilitiesN fileN*]

DESCRIPTION

In the absence of the **-v** (verify) option **setcap** sets the capabilities of each specified *filename* to the *capabilities* specified. The optional **-n <rootuid>** argument can be used to set the file capability for use only in a user namespace with this root user ID owner. The **-v** option is used to verify that the specified capabilities are currently associated with the file. If **-v** and **-n** are supplied, the **-n <rootuid>** argument is also verified.

The *capabilities* are specified in the form described in **cap_from_text**(3).

The special capability string, **'-'**, can be used to indicate that capabilities are read from the standard input. In such cases, the capability set is terminated with a blank line.

The special capability string, **'-r'**, is used to remove a capability set from a file. Note, setting an empty capability set is **not the same** as removing it. An empty set can be used to guarantee a file is not executed with privilege in spite of the fact that the prevailing ambient+inheritable sets would otherwise bestow capabilities on executed binaries.

The **-q** flag is used to make the program less verbose in its output.

EXIT CODE

The **setcap** program will exit with a 0 exit code if successful. On failure, the exit code is 1.

REPORTING BUGS

Please report bugs via:

https://bugzilla.kernel.org/buglist.cgi?component=libcap&list_id=1090757

SEE ALSO

capsh(1), **cap_from_text**(3), **cap_get_file**(3), **capabilities**(7), **user_namespaces**(7), **captree**(8), **getcap**(8) and **getpcaps**(8).