

NAME

`pcap_datalink` – get the link-layer header type

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <pcap/pcap.h>
```

```
int pcap_datalink(pcap_t *p);
```

DESCRIPTION

`pcap_datalink()` returns the link-layer header type for the live capture or “savefile” specified by *p*.

It must not be called on a pcap descriptor created by `pcap_create(3PCAP)` that has not yet been activated by `pcap_activate(3PCAP)`.

<https://www.tcpdump.org/linktypes.html> lists the values `pcap_datalink()` can return and describes the packet formats that correspond to those values.

Do **NOT** assume that the packets for a given capture or “savefile” will have any given link-layer header type, such as **DLT_EN10MB** for Ethernet. For example, the “any” device on Linux will have a link-layer header type of **DLT_LINUX_SLL** or **DLT_LINUX_SLL2** even if all devices on the system at the time the “any” device is opened have some other data link type, such as **DLT_EN10MB** for Ethernet.

RETURN VALUE

`pcap_datalink()` returns the link-layer header type on success and **PCAP_ERROR_NOT_ACTIVATED** if called on a capture handle that has been created but not activated.

SEE ALSO

`pcap(3PCAP)`, `pcap-linktype(7)`