

NAME

`program_invocation_name`, `program_invocation_short_name` – obtain name used to invoke calling program

LIBRARY

Standard C library (*libc*, *-lc*)

SYNOPSIS

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE      /* See feature_test_macros(7) */
#include <errno.h>

extern char *program_invocation_name;
extern char *program_invocation_short_name;
```

DESCRIPTION

`program_invocation_name` contains the name that was used to invoke the calling program. This is the same as the value of `argv[0]` in `main()`, with the difference that the scope of `program_invocation_name` is global.

`program_invocation_short_name` contains the basename component of name that was used to invoke the calling program. That is, it is the same value as `program_invocation_name`, with all text up to and including the final slash (/), if any, removed.

These variables are automatically initialized by the glibc run-time startup code.

STANDARDS

These variables are GNU extensions, and should not be used in programs intended to be portable.

NOTES

The Linux-specific `/proc/[number]/cmdline` file provides access to similar information.

SEE ALSO

`proc(5)`