chdir(2) — Linux manual page

CHDIR(2) Linux Programmer's Manual CHDIR(2)

NAME top

chdir, fchdir - change working directory

SYNOPSIS top

```
#include <unistd.h>

int chdir(const char *path);
int fchdir(int fd);
```

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

```
fchdir():
    _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500
        || /* Since glibc 2.12: */ _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L
        || /* Glibc up to and including 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION top

chdir() changes the current working directory of the calling process to the directory specified in *path*.

fchdir() is identical to **chdir**(); the only difference is that the directory is given as an open file descriptor.

RETURN VALUE top

On success, zero is returned. On error, -1 is returned, and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS top

Depending on the filesystem, other errors can be returned. The more general errors for **chdir**() are listed below:

EACCES Search permission is denied for one of the components of *path*. (See also path_resolution(7).)

EFAULT *path* points outside your accessible address space.

EIO An I/O error occurred.

ELOOP Too many symbolic links were encountered in resolving *path*.

ENAMETOOLONG
path is too long.

ENOENT The directory specified in *path* does not exist.

ENOMEM Insufficient kernel memory was available.

ENOTDIR
A component of *path* is not a directory.

The general errors for **fchdir**() are listed below:

EACCES Search permission was denied on the directory open on *fd*.

EBADF *fd* is not a valid file descriptor.

ENOTDIR
fd does not refer to a directory.

CONFORMING TO top

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, SVr4, 4.4BSD.

NOTES top

The current working directory is the starting point for interpreting relative pathnames (those not starting with '/').

A child process created via fork(2) inherits its parent's current working directory. The current working directory is left unchanged by execve(2).

SEE ALSO top

chroot(2), getcwd(3), path_resolution(7)

COLOPHON top

This page is part of release 5.13 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/.

Pages that refer to this page: chroot(2), clone(2), open(2), pivot_root(2), rmdir(2), syscalls(2), unshare(2), dirfd(3), fts(3), ftw(3), getcwd(3), cpuset(7), path_resolution(7), pthreads(7), signal-safety(7)