

EPICS Multi-Core Utilities

1.1.1

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Contents

1	EPICS Multi-Core Utilities	1
1.1	Scope of this Document	1
1.2	Introduction	1
1.2.1	Advanced Thread Show Routines	1
1.2.2	Rule Based Real-Time Property Manipulation	1
1.3	Sources	2
1.4	Requirements	2
1.5	Installation	2
1.6	Usage	2
2	Module Index	3
2.1	Modules	3
3	File Index	5
3.1	File List	5
4	Module Documentation	7
4.1	Real-Time threadShow Routines	7
4.1.1	Detailed Description	7
4.1.2	Function Documentation	7
4.1.2.1	mcoreThreadShow	7
4.1.2.2	mcoreThreadShowAll	8
4.1.2.3	mcoreThreadShowInit	8
4.2	Rule-Based Thread Properties	9
4.2.1	Detailed Description	9
4.2.2	Function Documentation	10
4.2.2.1	mcoreThreadModify	10
4.2.2.2	mcoreThreadRuleAdd	11
4.2.2.3	mcoreThreadRuleDelete	11
4.2.2.4	mcoreThreadRulesInit	11
4.2.2.5	mcoreThreadRulesShow	11
5	File Documentation	13

5.1	mcoreutils.h File Reference	13
5.1.1	Detailed Description	13
5.2	shellCommands.c File Reference	14
5.2.1	Detailed Description	14
5.3	threadRules.c File Reference	14
5.3.1	Detailed Description	15
5.3.2	Typedef Documentation	15
5.3.2.1	threadRule	15
5.4	threadShow.c File Reference	15
5.4.1	Detailed Description	16
5.5	utils.c File Reference	16
5.5.1	Detailed Description	17
5.5.2	Function Documentation	17
5.5.2.1	cpusetToStr	17
5.5.2.2	policyToStr	17
5.5.2.3	strToCpuset	17
5.5.2.4	strToPolicy	18
5.5.3	Variable Documentation	18
5.5.3.1	cpuDigits	18
5.6	utils.h File Reference	18
5.6.1	Detailed Description	19
5.6.2	Macro Definition Documentation	19
5.6.2.1	checkStatus	19
5.6.2.2	NO_OF_CPUS	19
5.6.3	Function Documentation	19
5.6.3.1	cpusetToStr	19
5.6.3.2	policyToStr	19
5.6.3.3	strToCpuset	20
5.6.3.4	strToPolicy	20
5.6.4	Variable Documentation	20
5.6.4.1	cpuDigits	20

Chapter 1

EPICS Multi-Core Utilities

1.1 Scope of this Document

This documentation covers the C API and the iocShell commands of the EPICS Multi-Core Utilities.

1.2 Introduction

The EPICS Multi-Core Utilities library contains tools that allow tweaking of real-time parameters for EPICS IOC threads running on multi-core processors under the Linux operating system.

These tools are intended to set up multi-core IOCs for fast controllers, by:

- Confining either parts or the complete EPICS IOC onto a subset of the available cores, allowing hard real-time applications and threads to run on dedicated cores.
- Changing priorities of callback, driver or communication threads with respect to database processing.
- Selecting real-time scheduling policy (FIFO or Round-Robin) for selected threads.

1.2.1 Advanced Thread Show Routines

An extended version of the `epicsThreadShow()` command, showing scheduling policy and CPU affinity in addition to the usual output.

Details can be found in the documentation for module [Real-Time threadShow Routines](#).

1.2.2 Rule Based Real-Time Property Manipulation

A module allowing to specify rules, which consist of a regular expression to match the thread name against, and a set of commands that allow to specify the real-time properties of a thread.

Whenever the EPICS IOC starts a thread, its name is matched against all existing rules, and for matching rules the commands are applied.

Details can be found in the documentation for module [Rule-Based Thread Properties](#).

Warning

The default priorities of the EPICS IOC threads are well-chosen. They have been proven to ensure reliable IOC operation and communication, in many installations, under a variety of circumstances.

Manipulating the real-time properties, especially scheduling policies and priorities, may have unwanted side effects. Use this feature sparingly, and test well.

1.3 Sources

Releases can be found at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/epics/files/mcoreutils/>

The sources are versioned using [Mercurial](#). They can be viewed at <http://epics.hg.sourceforge.net/hgweb/epics/mcoreutils/> or checked out using

```
hg clone http://epics.hg.sourceforge.net:8000/hgroot/epics/mcoreutils
```

1.4 Requirements

- Linux operating system
- [EPICS](#) BASE \geq 3.15.0.1

1.5 Installation

- Unpack the distribution tar or check out the source tree.
- Run `make`
- To generate a minimal example IOC, run `make -C example`

1.6 Usage

To use the Multi-Core Utilities in an IOC application tree, you have to add a definition to `.../configure/RELEASE` that points to the location of the `mcoreutils` module.

In the directory that builds your IOC binary, the `Makefile` has to make sure the IOC is only built for Linux. Then add the `dbd` file and the Library, e.g.:

```
...
PROD_IOC_Linux = mcutest
...
mcutest_DBD += mcoreutils.dbd
...
mcutest_LIBS += mcoreutils
...
```

That's it. Enjoy!

Chapter 2

Module Index

2.1 Modules

Here is a list of all modules:

Real-Time threadShow Routines	7
Rule-Based Thread Properties	9

Chapter 3

File Index

3.1 File List

Here is a list of all files with brief descriptions:

mcoreutils.h	13
shellCommands.c	
locShell registration of MCoreUtils commands	14
threadRules.c	
Rule-based modification of thread real-time properties	14
threadShow.c	
New threadShow showing real-time properties	15
utils.c	
Utility functions for MCoreUtils	16
utils.h	
Header file for utils.c	18

Chapter 4

Module Documentation

4.1 Real-Time threadShow Routines

Add two new threadShow functions that show scheduling policy and CPU affinity.

Files

- file [threadShow.c](#)
New threadShow showing real-time properties.

Functions

- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadShowInit](#) (void)
Initialization routine.
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadShow](#) (epicsThreadId thread, unsigned int level)
iocShell: Show thread info for one thread.
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadShowAll](#) (unsigned int level)
iocShell: Show thread info for all threads.

4.1.1 Detailed Description

Add two new threadShow functions that show scheduling policy and CPU affinity. Adds two new threadShow functions that, in addition to the properties shown by `epicsThreadShow()` and `epicsThreadShowAll()`, print the scheduling policy, and the CPU affinity of each thread.

Uses the `epicsThreadMap()` call to have a hook function being called for every thread, which prints out the thread properties.

4.1.2 Function Documentation

4.1.2.1 epicsShareFunc void mcoreThreadShow (epicsThreadId thread, unsigned int level)

iocShell: Show thread info for one thread.

Sets the global thread and level variables, and calls the map function.

Parameters

<i>thread</i>	id of thread to show
<i>level</i>	verbosity level

IOC Shell

mcoreThreadShow thread level

thread	thread name or id
level	verbosity level

Definition at line 121 of file threadShow.c.

4.1.2.2 epicsShareFunc void mcoreThreadShowAll (unsigned int *level*)

iocShell: Show thread info for all threads.

Parameters

<i>level</i>	verbosity level
--------------	-----------------

IOC Shell

mcoreThreadShowAll level

level	verbosity level
-------	-----------------

Definition at line 135 of file threadShow.c.

4.1.2.3 epicsShareFunc void mcoreThreadShowInit (void)

Initialization routine.

Must be called before using any of the other functions, which is done when registering the iocsh commands.

Definition at line 153 of file threadShow.c.

4.2 Rule-Based Thread Properties

Allow user-specified rules that modify real-time properties of EPICS threads.

Files

- file [threadRules.c](#)
Rule-based modification of thread real-time properties.

Functions

- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadModify](#) (epicsThreadId id, const char *policy, const char *priority, const char *cpus)
iocShell: Modify a thread's real-time properties.
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadRulesInit](#) ()
Initialization routine.
- epicsShareFunc long [mcoreThreadRuleAdd](#) (const char *name, const char *policy, const char *priority, const char *cpus, const char *pattern)
iocShell: Add or replace a thread rule.
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadRuleDelete](#) (const char *name)
iocShell: Delete a thread rule.
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadRulesShow](#) (void)
iocShell: Print a comprehensive list of the thread rules.

4.2.1 Detailed Description

Allow user-specified rules that modify real-time properties of EPICS threads. Implements a library that uses rules to modify real-time properties of EPICS threads:

- *Scheduling policy*
Scheduling mechanism used for this thread. When POSIX scheduling is enabled, the default mechanism is SCHED_FIFO, but SCHED_OTHER and SCHED_RR are also supported.
- *Scheduling priority*
OSI priority value that gets converted to the system's real-time priority schema.
- *CPU Affinity*
Set of CPUs that this thread is allowed to run on.

This is achieved by creating a linked list of rules, which consist of a regular expression pattern and modification instructions. A hook function is added to the EPICS thread creation module. The hook is called from every thread as part of its creation, matches the regular expression patterns of all rules against the name of the newly created thread, and applies the modifications of all rules that match.

See Also

See man pages for [pthread_setschedparam\(3\)](#) and [sched_setscheduler\(2\)](#) for details on scheduling policy and priority, [pthread_setaffinity_np\(3\)](#) and [sched_setaffinity\(2\)](#) for details on CPU affinity.

Configuration Files

The module tries to read a system configuration file (`/etc/rtrules`) and a user configuration file (default: `$HOME/.rtrules`) to create the initial list of thread rules.

The file format is based on the format of the `/etc/rtgroups` file on RHEL-MRG. Each line has the format

name:policy:priority:affinity:pattern

name	name of the rule
policy	scheduling policy to set for the thread (first letter, not case sensitive), * = don't change
priority	scheduling priority to set for the thread (a + or – sign adds to the current priority), * = don't change
affinity	CPU(s) to set the thread's affinity to (use , and – to specify multiple CPUs and ranges, e.g. 0,3-5), * = don't change
pattern	regular expression pattern to match thread names against, see man page for regex(7) for details

Lines starting with # (comments), and empty lines (containing only whitespace) are ignored.

Environment Variables

HOME location of the HOME directory (default: /)

EPICS_MCORE_USERCONFIG name of user configuration file, relative to the HOME directory (default: `.rtrules`)

Known Issues

A thread calling `epicsThreadSetPriority()` to set its priority while running may override the priorities defined in the rules at any time.

4.2.2 Function Documentation

4.2.2.1 `epicsShareFunc void mcoreThreadModify (epicsThreadId id, const char * policy, const char * priority, const char * cpus)`

iocShell: Modify a thread's real-time properties.

Parameters

<i>id</i>	EPICS thread id
<i>policy</i>	scheduling policy to set (* = don't change)
<i>priority</i>	scheduling priority (OSI) to set (a + or – sign adds to the current priority, * = don't change)
<i>cpus</i>	cpuset specification to set (use , and – to specify multiple CPUs and ranges, * = don't change)

IOC Shell

mcoreThreadModify thread policy priority cpus

thread	thread name or id
policy	scheduling policy to set (* = don't change)
priority	scheduling priority (OSI) to set (a + or – sign adds to the current priority, * = don't change)
cpus	cpuset specification to set (use , and – to specify multiple CPUs and ranges, * = don't change)

Definition at line 289 of file `threadRules.c`.

4.2.2.2 `epicsShareFunc long mcoreThreadRuleAdd (const char * name, const char * policy, const char * priority, const char * cpus, const char * pattern)`

iocShell: Add or replace a thread rule.

Parameters

<i>name</i>	rule name (identifier)
<i>policy</i>	scheduling policy to set (* = don't change)
<i>priority</i>	scheduling priority (OSI) to set (a + or – sign adds to the current priority, * = don't change)
<i>cpus</i>	cpuset specification to set (use , and – to specify multiple CPUs and ranges, * = don't change)
<i>pattern</i>	regex (7) pattern to match thread names against

Returns

(OK, ERROR) as (0,-1)

IOC Shell

mcoreThreadRuleAdd name policy priority cpus pattern

name	rule name (identifier)
policy	scheduling policy to set (* = don't change)
priority	scheduling priority (OSI) to set (a + or – sign adds to the current priority, * = don't change)
cpus	cpuset specification to set (use , and – to specify multiple CPUs and ranges, * = don't change)
pattern	regex (7) pattern to match thread names against

Definition at line 109 of file threadRules.c.

4.2.2.3 `epicsShareFunc void mcoreThreadRuleDelete (const char * name)`

iocShell: Delete a thread rule.

Parameters

<i>name</i>	name (identifier) of the rule to delete
-------------	---

IOC Shell

mcoreThreadRuleDelete name

name	name (identifier) of the rule to delete
------	---

Definition at line 140 of file threadRules.c.

4.2.2.4 `epicsShareFunc void mcoreThreadRulesInit ()`

Initialization routine.

Must be called before using any of the other functions, which is done when registering the iocsh commands.

Definition at line 377 of file threadRules.c.

4.2.2.5 `epicsShareFunc void mcoreThreadRulesShow (void)`

iocShell: Print a comprehensive list of the thread rules.

Rule names are shortened to 16 characters.

IOC Shell

mcoreThreadRulesShow

Definition at line 165 of file threadRules.c.

Chapter 5

File Documentation

5.1 mcoreutils.h File Reference

```
#include <unistd.h>
#include <epicsThread.h>
#include <shareLib.h>
```

Functions

- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadShowInit](#) (void)
Initialization routine.
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadShow](#) (epicsThreadId thread, unsigned int level)
iocShell: *Show thread info for one thread.*
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadShowAll](#) (unsigned int level)
iocShell: *Show thread info for all threads.*
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadModify](#) (epicsThreadId id, const char *policy, const char *priority, const char *cpus)
iocShell: *Modify a thread's real-time properties.*
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadRulesInit](#) ()
Initialization routine.
- epicsShareFunc long [mcoreThreadRuleAdd](#) (const char *name, const char *policy, const char *priority, const char *cpus, const char *pattern)
iocShell: *Add or replace a thread rule.*
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadRuleDelete](#) (const char *name)
iocShell: *Delete a thread rule.*
- epicsShareFunc void [mcoreThreadRulesShow](#) (void)
iocShell: *Print a comprehensive list of the thread rules.*

5.1.1 Detailed Description

Author

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Definition in file [mcoreutils.h](#).

5.2 shellCommands.c File Reference

iocShell registration of MCoreUtils commands.

```
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <iocsh.h>
#include <epicsExport.h>
#include <epicsThread.h>
#include "mcoreutils.h"
```

5.2.1 Detailed Description

iocShell registration of MCoreUtils commands.

Author

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Definition in file [shellCommands.c](#).

5.3 threadRules.c File Reference

Rule-based modification of thread real-time properties.

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <pthread.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <regex.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <ellLib.h>
#include <envDefs.h>
#include <errlog.h>
#include <epicsStdio.h>
#include <epicsMath.h>
#include <epicsThread.h>
#include <epicsMutex.h>
#include <shareLib.h>
#include "utils.h"
#include "mcoreutils.h"
```

- typedef struct threadRule [threadRule](#)
A thread rule.
- long [mcoreThreadRuleAdd](#) (const char *name, const char *policy, const char *priority, const char *cpus, const char *pattern)
Add or replace a thread rule.
- void [mcoreThreadRuleDelete](#) (const char *name)
Delete a thread rule.
- void [mcoreThreadRulesShow](#) (void)
Print a comprehensive list of the thread rules.
- void [mcoreThreadModify](#) (epicsThreadId id, const char *policy, const char *priority, const char *cpus)
Modify a thread's real-time properties.
- void [mcoreThreadRulesInit](#) (void)
Initialization routine.

5.3.1 Detailed Description

Rule-based modification of thread real-time properties.

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Definition in file [threadRules.c](#).

5.3.2 Typedef Documentation

5.3.2.1 typedef struct threadRule threadRule

A thread rule.

Used to manipulate real-time properties when threads are started. The thread rules are kept in a linked list.

5.4 threadShow.c File Reference

New threadShow showing real-time properties.

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <sched.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <pthread.h>
#include <ellLib.h>
#include <errlog.h>
#include <epicsStdio.h>
#include <epicsEvent.h>
#include <epicsThread.h>
#include <epicsMath.h>
#include <shareLib.h>
#include "utils.h"
#include "mcoreutils.h"
```

- void [mcoreThreadShow](#) (epicsThreadId thread, unsigned int level)
Show thread info for one thread.
- void [mcoreThreadShowAll](#) (unsigned int level)
Show thread info for all threads.
- void [mcoreThreadShowInit](#) (void)
Initialization routine.

5.4.1 Detailed Description

New threadShow showing real-time properties.

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Definition in file [threadShow.c](#).

5.5 utils.c File Reference

Utility functions for MCoreUtils.

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sched.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <errlog.h>
#include "utils.h"
```

Functions

- void [strToCpuset](#) (cpu_set_t *cpuset, const char *spec)
Convert a cpuset string specification (e.g. "0,2-3") to a cpuset.
- void [cpusetToStr](#) (char *set, size_t len, const cpu_set_t *cpuset)
Convert a cpuset into its string specification (e.g. "0,2-3").
- const char * [policyToStr](#) (const int policy)
Convert scheduling policy to string.
- int [strToPolicy](#) (const char *string)
Convert string policy specification to policy.

Variables

- epicsShareDef int [cpuDigits](#)
Number of digits needed for a single CPU spec.

5.5.1 Detailed Description

Utility functions for MCoreUtils.

Author

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Definition in file [utils.c](#).

5.5.2 Function Documentation

5.5.2.1 void cpusetToStr (char * *set*, size_t *len*, const cpu_set_t * *cpuset*)

Convert a cpuset into its string specification (e.g. "0,2-3").

Parameters

<i>set</i>	output buffer to write into
<i>len</i>	length of <i>set</i>
<i>cpuset</i>	cpuset to convert

Definition at line 59 of file utils.c.

5.5.2.2 const char* policyToStr (const int *policy*)

Convert scheduling policy to string.

Parameters

<i>policy</i>	policy to convert
---------------	-------------------

Returns

string representation

Definition at line 96 of file utils.c.

5.5.2.3 void strToCpuset (cpu_set_t * *cpuset*, const char * *spec*)

Convert a cpuset string specification (e.g. "0,2-3") to a cpuset.

Parameters

<i>cpuset</i>	cpuset to write into
<i>spec</i>	specification string

Definition at line 29 of file utils.c.

5.5.2.4 int strToPolicy (const char * *string*)

Convert string policy specification to policy.

Parameters

<i>string</i>	string policy specification
---------------	-----------------------------

Returns

policy value, or -1 on error

Definition at line 124 of file utils.c.

5.5.3 Variable Documentation

5.5.3.1 epicsShareDef int cpuDigits

Number of digits needed for a single CPU spec.

Set in [mcoreThreadShowInit\(\)](#).

Definition at line 21 of file utils.c.

5.6 utils.h File Reference

Header file for [utils.c](#).

```
#include <sched.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <errlog.h>
```

Macros

- #define [NO_OF_CPUS](#) sysconf(_SC_NPROCESSORS_CONF)
- #define [checkStatus](#)(status, message)

Functions

- void [strToCpuset](#) (cpu_set_t *cpuset, const char *spec)
Convert a cpuset string specification (e.g. "0,2-3") to a cpuset.
- void [cpusetToStr](#) (char *set, size_t len, const cpu_set_t *cpuset)
Convert a cpuset into its string specification (e.g. "0,2-3").
- const char * [policyToStr](#) (const int policy)
Convert scheduling policy to string.
- int [strToPolicy](#) (const char *string)
Convert string policy specification to policy.

Variables

- int [cpuDigits](#)
Number of digits needed for a single CPU spec.

5.6.1 Detailed Description

Header file for [utils.c](#).

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Definition in file [utils.h](#).

5.6.2 Macro Definition Documentation

5.6.2.1 `#define checkStatus(status, message)`

Value:

```
if((status)) {\
    errlogPrintf("%s error %s\n", (message), strerror((status))); \
}
```

Definition at line 22 of file [utils.h](#).

5.6.2.2 `#define NO_OF_CPUS sysconf(_SC_NPROCESSORS_CONF)`

Definition at line 20 of file [utils.h](#).

5.6.3 Function Documentation

5.6.3.1 `void cpusetToStr (char * set, size_t len, const cpu_set_t * cpuset)`

Convert a cpuset into its string specification (e.g. "0,2-3").

Parameters

<i>set</i>	output buffer to write into
<i>len</i>	length of <i>set</i>
<i>cpuset</i>	cpuset to convert

Definition at line 59 of file [utils.c](#).

5.6.3.2 `const char* policyToStr (const int policy)`

Convert scheduling policy to string.

Parameters

<i>policy</i>	policy to convert
---------------	-------------------

Returns

string representation

Definition at line 96 of file utils.c.

5.6.3.3 void strToCpuset (cpu_set_t * *cpuset*, const char * *spec*)

Convert a cpuset string specification (e.g. "0,2-3") to a cpuset.

Parameters

<i>cpuset</i>	cpuset to write into
<i>spec</i>	specification string

Definition at line 29 of file utils.c.

5.6.3.4 int strToPolicy (const char * *string*)

Convert string policy specification to policy.

Parameters

<i>string</i>	string policy specification
---------------	-----------------------------

Returns

policy value, or -1 on error

Definition at line 124 of file utils.c.

5.6.4 Variable Documentation**5.6.4.1 int cpuDigits**

Number of digits needed for a single CPU spec.

Set in [mcoreThreadShowInit\(\)](#).

Definition at line 21 of file utils.c.

Index

- checkStatus
 - [utils.h, 19](#)
- cpuDigits
 - [utils.c, 18](#)
 - [utils.h, 20](#)
- cpusetToStr
 - [utils.c, 17](#)
 - [utils.h, 19](#)
- mcoreThreadModify
 - Rule-Based Thread Properties, [10](#)
- mcoreThreadRuleAdd
 - Rule-Based Thread Properties, [11](#)
- mcoreThreadRuleDelete
 - Rule-Based Thread Properties, [11](#)
- mcoreThreadRulesInit
 - Rule-Based Thread Properties, [11](#)
- mcoreThreadRulesShow
 - Rule-Based Thread Properties, [11](#)
- mcoreThreadShow
 - Real-Time threadShow Routines, [7](#)
- mcoreThreadShowAll
 - Real-Time threadShow Routines, [8](#)
- mcoreThreadShowInit
 - Real-Time threadShow Routines, [8](#)
- mcoreutils.h, [13](#)
- NO_OF_CPUS
 - [utils.h, 19](#)
- policyToStr
 - [utils.c, 17](#)
 - [utils.h, 19](#)
- Real-Time threadShow Routines, [7](#)
 - mcoreThreadShow, [7](#)
 - mcoreThreadShowAll, [8](#)
 - mcoreThreadShowInit, [8](#)
- Rule-Based Thread Properties, [9](#)
 - mcoreThreadModify, [10](#)
 - mcoreThreadRuleAdd, [11](#)
 - mcoreThreadRuleDelete, [11](#)
 - mcoreThreadRulesInit, [11](#)
 - mcoreThreadRulesShow, [11](#)
- shellCommands.c, [14](#)
- strToCpuset
 - [utils.c, 17](#)
 - [utils.h, 20](#)
- strToPolicy
 - [utils.c, 17](#)
- utils.h, [20](#)
- threadRule
 - threadRules.c, [15](#)
- threadRules.c, [14](#)
 - threadRule, [15](#)
- threadShow.c, [15](#)
- utils.c, [16](#)
 - cpuDigits, [18](#)
 - cpusetToStr, [17](#)
 - policyToStr, [17](#)
 - strToCpuset, [17](#)
 - strToPolicy, [17](#)
- utils.h, [18](#)
 - checkStatus, [19](#)
 - cpuDigits, [20](#)
 - cpusetToStr, [19](#)
 - NO_OF_CPUS, [19](#)
 - policyToStr, [19](#)
 - strToCpuset, [20](#)
 - strToPolicy, [20](#)