

getcap(8) — Linux manual page

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GETCAP(8)

System Manager's Manual

GETCAP(8)

NAME [top](#)

getcap - examine file capabilities

SYNOPSIS [top](#)

getcap [-v] [-n] [-r] [-h] *filename* [...]

DESCRIPTION [top](#)

getcap displays the name and capabilities of each specified file.

OPTIONS [top](#)

- h** prints quick usage.
- n** prints any non-zero user namespace root user ID value found to be associated with a file's capabilities.
- r** enables recursive search.
- v** display all searched entries, even if the have no file-capabilities.

NOTE: an *empty* value of '=' is **not** equivalent to an omitted (or removed) capability on a file. This is most significant with respect to the Ambient capability vector, since a process with Ambient capabilities will lose them when executing a file having '=' capabilities, but will retain the Ambient inheritance of privilege when executing a file with an omitted file capability. This special *empty* setting can be used to prevent a binary from executing with privilege. For some time, the kernel honored this suppression for root executing the file, but the kernel developers decided after a number of years that this behavior was unexpected for the superuser and reverted it just for that user identity. Suppression of root privilege, for a process tree, is possible, using the [capsh\(1\)](#) **--mode** option.

filename
One file per line.

REPORTING BUGS [top](#)

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

SEE ALSO [top](#)

[capsh\(1\)](#), [cap_get_file\(3\)](#), [cap_to_text\(3\)](#), [capabilities\(7\)](#), [user_namespaces\(7\)](#), [captree\(8\)](#), [getpcaps\(8\)](#) and [setcap\(8\)](#).

COLOPHON [top](#)

This page is part of the *Libcap* (capabilities commands and library) project. Information about the project can be found at <https://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/libs/libcap/libcap.git/>. If you have a bug report for this manual page, send it to

morgan@kernel.org (please put "libcap" in the Subject line).
This page was obtained from the project's upstream Git repository
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Pages that refer to this page: [capsh\(1\)](#), [libcap\(3\)](#), [capabilities\(7\)](#), [getpcaps\(8\)](#), [setcap\(8\)](#)

HTML rendering created 2024-06-26 by [Michael Kerrisk](#), author of *The Linux Programming Interface*.

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