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change working directory

Prolog

This manual page is part of the POSIX Programmer's Manual. The Linux implementation of this interface may differ (consult the corresponding Linux manual page for details of Linux behavior), or the interface may not be implemented on Linux.

Synopsis

#include <unistd.h>

int chdir(const char *path);

Description

The *chdir*() function shall cause the directory named by the pathname pointed to by the *path* argument to become the current working directory; that is, the starting point for path searches for pathnames not beginning with '/'.

Return Value

Upon successful completion, 0 shall be returned. Otherwise, -1 shall be returned, the current working directory shall remain unchanged, and *errno* shall be set to indicate the error.

Errors

The *chdir*() function shall fail if:

EACCES

Search permission is denied for any component of the pathname.

ELOOP

A loop exists in symbolic links encountered during resolution of the *path* argument.

ENAMETOOLONG

The length of a component of a pathname is longer than {NAME_MAX}.

ENOENT

A component of *path* does not name an existing directory or *path* is an empty string.

ENOTDIR

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The *chdir*() function may fail if:

ELOOP

> More than {SYMLOOP_MAX} symbolic links were encountered during resolution of the *path* argument.

ENAMETOOLONG

> The length of a pathname exceeds {PATH_MAX}, or pathname resolution of a symbolic link produced an intermediate result with a length that exceeds {PATH_MAX}.

The following sections are informative.

Examples

Changing the Current Working Directory

The following example makes the value pointed to by **directory, /tmp,** the current working directory.

```
#include <unistd.h>
...
char *directory = "/tmp";
int ret;

ret = chdir (directory);
```

Application Usage

None.

Rationale

The *chdir*() function only affects the working directory of the current process.

Future Directions

None.

See Also

getcwd()

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1-2017, <unistd.h>

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Referenced By

cd(1p), fchdir(3p).

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