

# **\_exit** - Man Page

*terminate the calling process*

## Synopsis

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

```
noreturn void _exit(int status);
```

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
noreturn void _Exit(int status);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature\\_test\\_macros\(7\)](#)):

**\_Exit():**

```
_ISOC99_SOURCE || _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200112L
```

## Description

**\_exit()** terminates the calling process "immediately". Any open file descriptors belonging to the process are closed. Any children of the process are inherited by [init\(1\)](#) (or by the nearest "subreaper" process as defined through the use of the [prctl\(2\)](#) **PR\_SET\_CHILD\_SUBREAPER** operation). The process's parent is sent a **SIGCHLD** signal.

The value *status* & `0xFF` is returned to the parent process as the process's exit status, and can be collected by the parent using one of the [wait\(2\)](#) family of calls.

The function **\_Exit()** is equivalent to **\_exit()**.

## Return Value

These functions do not return.

## Conforming to

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, SVr4, 4.3BSD. The function **\_Exit()** was introduced by C99.

## Notes

For a discussion on the effects of an exit, the transmission of exit status, zombie processes, signals sent, and so on, see [exit\(3\)](#).

The function **\_exit()** is like [exit\(3\)](#), but does not call any functions registered with [atexit\(3\)](#) or [on\\_exit\(3\)](#). Open [stdio\(3\)](#) streams are not

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The delay is undesired, it may be useful to call functions like `tcflush(3)` before calling `_exit()`. Whether any pending I/O is canceled, and which pending I/O may be canceled upon `_exit()`, is implementation-dependent.

## **C library/kernel differences**

In glibc up to version 2.3, the `_exit()` wrapper function invoked the kernel system call of the same name. Since glibc 2.3, the wrapper function invokes `exit_group(2)`, in order to terminate all of the threads in a process.

The raw `_exit()` system call terminates only the calling thread, and actions such as reparenting child processes or sending `SIGCHLD` to the parent process are performed only if this is the last thread in the thread group.

## **See Also**

`execve(2)`, `exit_group(2)`, `fork(2)`, `kill(2)`, `wait(2)`, `wait4(2)`, `waitpid(2)`, `atexit(3)`, `exit(3)`, `on_exit(3)`, `termios(3)`

## **Colophon**

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/>.

## **Referenced By**

`atexit(3)`, `clone(2)`, `daemon(3)`, `exit(3)`, `exit_group(2)`, `expect(1)`, `fork(2)`, `gprof(1)`, `kill(2)`, `on_exit(3)`, `pagesend.8c(8)`, `persistent-keyring(7)`, `pmGetConfig(3)`, `pmNoMem(3)`, `prctl(2)`, `ptrace(2)`, `seccomp(2)`, `setsid(2)`, `shmop(2)`, `signal-safety(7)`, `socket(7)`, `stress-ng(1)`, `syscalls(2)`, `system(3)`, `user-keyring(7)`, `user-session-keyring(7)`, `vfork(2)`, `wait(2)`.

The man pages `exit(2)` and `_Exit(2)` are aliases of `_exit(2)`.

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