

NAME

`chdir`, `fchdir` - change working directory

SYNOPSIS

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

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

```
int fchdir(int fd);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature_test_macros\(7\)](#)):

```
fchdir():
```

```
  _BSD_SOURCE || _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500 ||  
  _XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE_EXTENDED  
  || /* Since glibc 2.12: */ _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L
```

DESCRIPTION

`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

On success, zero is returned. On error, -1 is returned, and *errno* is set appropriately.

ERRORS

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 file 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.

CONFORMING TO

SVr4, 4.4BSD, POSIX.1-2001.

NOTES

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

[chroot\(2\)](#), [getcwd\(3\)](#), [path_resolution\(7\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.74 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 <http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.