

**NAME**

chroot - change root directory

**SYNOPSIS**

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

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

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

**chroot():**

Since glibc 2.2.2:

```
_BSD_SOURCE ||  
(_XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500 ||  
_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE_EXTENDED) &&  
!(_POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200112L || _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 600)
```

Before glibc 2.2.2: none

**DESCRIPTION**

**chroot()** changes the root directory of the calling process to that specified in *path*. This directory will be used for pathnames beginning with /. The root directory is inherited by all children of the calling process.

Only a privileged process (Linux: one with the **CAP\_SYS\_CHROOT** capability) may call **chroot()**.

This call changes an ingredient in the pathname resolution process and does nothing else.

This call does not change the current working directory, so that after the call '.' can be outside the tree rooted at '/. In particular, the superuser can escape from a "chroot jail" by doing:

```
mkdir foo; chroot foo; cd ..
```

This call does not close open file descriptors, and such file descriptors may allow access to files outside the chroot tree.

**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 are listed below:

**EACCES**

Search permission is denied on a component of the path prefix. (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.

**EPERM**

The caller has insufficient privilege.

**CONFORMING TO**

SVr4, 4.4BSD, SUSv2 (marked LEGACY). This function is not part of POSIX.1-2001.

**NOTES**

A child process created via [fork\(2\)](#) inherits its parent's root directory. The root directory is left unchanged by [execve\(2\)](#).

FreeBSD has a stronger **jail**() system call.

**SEE ALSO**

[chdir\(2\)](#), [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/>.