

NAME

`inotify_init`, `inotify_init1` - initialize an inotify instance

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/inotify.h>
```

```
int inotify_init(void);
int inotify_init1(int flags);
```

DESCRIPTION

For an overview of the inotify API, see [inotify\(7\)](#).

`inotify_init()` initializes a new inotify instance and returns a file descriptor associated with a new inotify event queue.

If *flags* is 0, then `inotify_init1()` is the same as `inotify_init()`. The following values can be bit-wise ORed in *flags* to obtain different behavior:

IN_NONBLOCK

Set the `O_NONBLOCK` file status flag on the new open file description. Using this flag saves extra calls to [fcntl\(2\)](#) to achieve the same result.

IN_CLOEXEC

Set the close-on-exec (`FD_CLOEXEC`) flag on the new file descriptor. See the description of the `O_CLOEXEC` flag in [open\(2\)](#) for reasons why this may be useful.

RETURN VALUE

On success, these system calls return a new file descriptor. On error, -1 is returned, and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS**EINVAL**

(`inotify_init1()`) An invalid value was specified in *flags*.

EMFILE

The user limit on the total number of inotify instances has been reached.

ENFILE

The system limit on the total number of file descriptors has been reached.

ENOMEM

Insufficient kernel memory is available.

VERSIONS

`inotify_init()` first appeared in Linux 2.6.13; library support was added to glibc in version 2.4.

`inotify_init1()` was added in Linux 2.6.27; library support was added to glibc in version 2.9.

CONFORMING TO

These system calls are Linux-specific.

SEE ALSO

[inotify_add_watch\(2\)](#), [inotify_rm_watch\(2\)](#), [inotify\(7\)](#)

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/>.