NAME

rpc - library routines for remote procedure calls

SYNOPSIS AND DESCRIPTION

These routines allow C programs to make procedure calls on other machines across the network. First, the client calls a procedure to send a data packet to the server. Upon receipt of the packet, the server calls a dispatch routine to perform the requested service, and then sends back a reply. Finally, the procedure call returns to the client.

To take use of these routines, include the header file *<rpc/rpc.h>*.

The prototypes below make use of the following types:

typedef int *bool_t*;

typedef bool_t (******xdrproc_t*) (**XDR *, void *, ...**);

typedef bool_t (******resultproc_t*) (**caddr_t** *resp*,
 struct sockaddr_in *raddr);

See the header files for the declarations of the *AUTH*, *CLIENT*, *SVCXPRT*, and *XDR* types.

void auth_destroy(AUTH *auth);

A macro that destroys the authentication information associated with *auth*. Destruction usually involves deallocation of private data structures. The use of *auth* is undefined after calling **auth_destroy**().

AUTH *authnone_create(void);

Create and return an RPC authentication handle that passes nonusable authentication information with each remote procedure call. This is the default authentication used by RPC.

AUTH *authunix_create(char *host, **int** *uid*, **int** *gid*,
 int *len*, **int ****aup_gids*);

Create and return an RPC authentication handle that contains authentication information. The parameter *host* is the name of the machine on which the information was created; *uid* is the user's user ID; *gid* is the user's current group ID; *len* and *aup_gids* refer to a counted array of groups to which the user belongs. It is easy to impersonate a user.

AUTH *authunix_create_default(void);

Calls **authunix_create**() with the appropriate parameters.

int callrpc(char *host, **unsigned long** *prognum*,
 unsigned long *versnum*, **unsigned long** *procnum*,
 xdrproc_t *inproc*, **char ****in*,
 xdrproc_t *outproc*, **char ****out*);

Call the remote procedure associated with *prognum*, *versnum*, and *procnum* on the machine, *host*. The parameter *in* is the address of the procedure's argument(s), and *out* is the address of where to place the result(s); *inproc* is used to encode the procedure's parameters, and *outproc* is used to decode the procedure's results. This routine returns zero if it succeeds, or the value of **enum clnt_stat** cast to an integer if it fails. The routine **clnt_perrno**() is handy for translating failure statuses into messages.

Warning: calling remote procedures with this routine uses UDP/IP as a transport; see **clntudp_create**() for restrictions. You do not have control of timeouts or authentication using this routine.

enum clnt_stat clnt_broadcast(unsigned long *prognum*,
 unsigned long *versnum*, **unsigned long** *procnum*,
 xdrproc_t *inproc*, **char ****in*,

xdrproc_t *outproc*, **char ****out*,
resultproc_t *eachresult***);**

> Like **callrpc**(), except the call message is broadcast to all locally connected broadcast nets. Each time it receives a response, this routine calls **eachresult**(), whose form is:
>
> **eachresult(char ****out*, **struct sockaddr_in ****addr***);**
>
> where *out* is the same as *out* passed to **clnt_broadcast**(), except that the remote procedure's output is decoded there; *addr* points to the address of the machine that sent the results. If **eachresult**() returns zero, **clnt_broadcast**() waits for more replies; otherwise it returns with appropriate status.
>
> Warning: broadcast sockets are limited in size to the maximum transfer unit of the data link. For ethernet, this value is 1500 bytes.

enum clnt_stat clnt_call(CLIENT **clnt***, unsigned long** *procnum***,**
xdrproc_t *inproc***, char ****in***,**
xdrproc_t *outproc***, char ****out***,**
struct timeval *tout***);**

> A macro that calls the remote procedure *procnum* associated with the client handle, *clnt*, which is obtained with an RPC client creation routine such as **clnt_create**(). The parameter *in* is the address of the procedure's argument(s), and *out* is the address of where to place the result(s); *inproc* is used to encode the procedure's parameters, and *outproc* is used to decode the procedure's results; *tout* is the time allowed for results to come back.

clnt_destroy(CLIENT **clnt***);**

> A macro that destroys the client's RPC handle. Destruction usually involves deallocation of private data structures, including *clnt* itself. Use of *clnt* is undefined after calling **clnt_destroy**(). If the RPC library opened the associated socket, it will close it also. Otherwise, the socket remains open.

CLIENT *clnt_create(char **host***, unsigned long** *prog***,**
unsigned long *vers***, char ****proto***);**

> Generic client creation routine. *host* identifies the name of the remote host where the server is located. *proto* indicates which kind of transport protocol to use. The currently supported values for this field are "udp" and "tcp". Default timeouts are set, but can be modified using **clnt_control**().
>
> Warning: Using UDP has its shortcomings. Since UDP-based RPC messages can hold only up to 8 Kbytes of encoded data, this transport cannot be used for procedures that take large arguments or return huge results.

bool_t clnt_control(CLIENT **cl***, int** *req***, char ****info***);**

> A macro used to change or retrieve various information about a client object. *req* indicates the type of operation, and *info* is a pointer to the information. For both UDP and TCP, the supported values of *req* and their argument types and what they do are:
>
> **CLSET_TIMEOUT** *struct timeval* // set total timeout
> **CLGET_TIMEOUT** *struct timeval* // get total timeout
>
> Note: if you set the timeout using **clnt_control**(), the timeout parameter passed to **clnt_call**() will be ignored in all future calls.
>
> **CLGET_SERVER_ADDR** *struct sockaddr_in* // get server's address
>
> The following operations are valid for UDP only:
>
> **CLSET_RETRY_TIMEOUT** *struct timeval* // set the retry timeout
> **CLGET_RETRY_TIMEOUT** *struct timeval* // get the retry timeout

The retry timeout is the time that UDP RPC waits for the server to reply before retransmitting the request.

clnt_freeres(CLIENT * *clnt*, **xdrproc_t** *outproc*, **char ****out***);**

A macro that frees any data allocated by the RPC/XDR system when it decoded the results of an RPC call. The parameter *out* is the address of the results, and *outproc* is the XDR routine describing the results. This routine returns one if the results were successfully freed, and zero otherwise.

void clnt_geterr(CLIENT *clnt, **struct rpc_err ****errp***);**

A macro that copies the error structure out of the client handle to the structure at address *errp*.

void clnt_pcreateerror(char **s***);**

Print a message to standard error indicating why a client RPC handle could not be created. The message is prepended with string *s* and a colon. Used when a **clnt_create**(), **clntraw_create**(), **clnttcp_create**(), or **clntudp_create**() call fails.

void clnt_perrno(enum clnt_stat *stat***);**

Print a message to standard error corresponding to the condition indicated by *stat*. Used after **callrpc**().

clnt_perror(CLIENT *clnt, **char ****s***);**

Print a message to standard error indicating why an RPC call failed; *clnt* is the handle used to do the call. The message is prepended with string *s* and a colon. Used after **clnt_call**().

char *clnt_spcreateerror(char **s***);**

Like **clnt_pcreateerror**(), except that it returns a string instead of printing to the standard error.

Bugs: returns pointer to static data that is overwritten on each call.

char *clnt_sperrno(enum clnt_stat *stat***);**

Take the same arguments as **clnt_perrno**(), but instead of sending a message to the standard error indicating why an RPC call failed, return a pointer to a string which contains the message. The string ends with a NEWLINE.

clnt_sperrno() is used instead of **clnt_perrno**() if the program does not have a standard error (as a program running as a server quite likely does not), or if the programmer does not want the message to be output with printf(3), or if a message format different than that supported by **clnt_perrno**() is to be used. Note: unlike **clnt_sperror**() and **clnt_spcreaterror**(), **clnt_sperrno**() returns pointer to static data, but the result will not get overwritten on each call.

char *clnt_sperror(CLIENT *rpch, **char ****s***);**

Like **clnt_perror**(), except that (like **clnt_sperrno**()) it returns a string instead of printing to standard error.

Bugs: returns pointer to static data that is overwritten on each call.

CLIENT *clntraw_create(unsigned long *prognum*, **unsigned long** *versnum***);**

This routine creates a toy RPC client for the remote program *prognum*, version *versnum*. The transport used to pass messages to the service is actually a buffer within the process's address space, so the corresponding RPC server should live in the same address space; see **svcraw_create**(). This allows simulation of RPC and acquisition of RPC overheads, such as round trip times, without any kernel interference. This routine returns NULL if it fails.

CLIENT *clnttcp_create(struct sockaddr_in *addr**,**
unsigned long prognum**, unsigned long** versnum**,**
int *sockp**, unsigned int** sendsz**, unsigned int** recvsz**);**

> This routine creates an RPC client for the remote program prognum, version versnum; the client uses TCP/IP as a transport. The remote program is located at Internet address *addr. If addr->sin_port is zero, then it is set to the actual port that the remote program is listening on (the remote **portmap** service is consulted for this information). The parameter sockp is a socket; if it is **RPC_ANYSOCK**, then this routine opens a new one and sets sockp. Since TCP-based RPC uses buffered I/O, the user may specify the size of the send and receive buffers with the parameters sendsz and recvsz; values of zero choose suitable defaults. This routine returns NULL if it fails.

CLIENT *clntudp_create(struct sockaddr_in *addr**,**
unsigned long prognum**, unsigned long** versnum**,**
struct timeval wait**, int ***sockp**);**

> This routine creates an RPC client for the remote program prognum, version versnum; the client uses use UDP/IP as a transport. The remote program is located at Internet address addr. If addr->sin_port is zero, then it is set to actual port that the remote program is listening on (the remote **portmap** service is consulted for this information). The parameter sockp is a socket; if it is **RPC_ANYSOCK**, then this routine opens a new one and sets sockp. The UDP transport resends the call message in intervals of wait time until a response is received or until the call times out. The total time for the call to time out is specified by **clnt_call**().

> Warning: since UDP-based RPC messages can hold only up to 8 Kbytes of encoded data, this transport cannot be used for procedures that take large arguments or return huge results.

CLIENT *clntudp_bufcreate(struct sockaddr_in *addr**,**
unsigned long prognum**, unsigned long** versnum**,**
struct timeval wait**, int ***sockp**,**
unsigned int sendsize**, unsigned int** recosize**);**

> This routine creates an RPC client for the remote program prognum, on versnum; the client uses use UDP/IP as a transport. The remote program is located at Internet address addr. If addr->sin_port is zero, then it is set to actual port that the remote program is listening on (the remote **portmap** service is consulted for this information). The parameter sockp is a socket; if it is **RPC_ANYSOCK**, then this routine opens a new one and sets sockp. The UDP transport resends the call message in intervals of wait time until a response is received or until the call times out. The total time for the call to time out is specified by **clnt_call**().

> This allows the user to specify the maximum packet size for sending and receiving UDP-based RPC messages.

void get_myaddress(struct sockaddr_in *addr**);**

> Stuff the machine's IP address into *addr, without consulting the library routines that deal with /etc/hosts. The port number is always set to **htons(PMAPPORT)**.

struct pmaplist *pmap_getmaps(struct sockaddr_in *addr**);**

> A user interface to the **portmap** service, which returns a list of the current RPC program-to-port mappings on the host located at IP address *addr. This routine can return NULL. The command rpcinfo -p uses this routine.

unsigned short pmap_getport(struct sockaddr_in *addr**,**
unsigned long prognum**, unsigned long** versnum**,**
unsigned int protocol**);**

A user interface to the **portmap** service, which returns the port number on which waits a service that supports program number *prognum*, version *versnum*, and speaks the transport protocol associated with *protocol*. The value of *protocol* is most likely **IPPROTO_UDP** or **IPPROTO_TCP**. A return value of zero means that the mapping does not exist or that the RPC system failed to contact the remote **portmap** service. In the latter case, the global variable *rpc_createerr* contains the RPC status.

enum clnt_stat pmap_rmtcall(struct sockaddr_in ***addr,**
 unsigned long *prognum*, **unsigned long** *versnum*,
 unsigned long *procnum*,
 xdrproc_t *inproc*, **char ***in**,**
 xdrproc_t *outproc*, **char ***out**,**
 struct timeval *tout*, **unsigned long ***portp**);**

A user interface to the **portmap** service, which instructs **portmap** on the host at IP address **addr* to make an RPC call on your behalf to a procedure on that host. The parameter **portp* will be modified to the program's port number if the procedure succeeds. The definitions of other parameters are discussed in **callrpc**() and **clnt_call**(). This procedure should be used for a "ping" and nothing else. See also **clnt_broadcast**().

bool_t pmap_set(unsigned long *prognum*, **unsigned long** *versnum*,
 unsigned int *protocol*, **unsigned short** *port*);

A user interface to the **portmap** service, which establishes a mapping between the triple [*prognum*,*versnum*,*protocol*] and *port* on the machine's **portmap** service. The value of *protocol* is most likely **IPPROTO_UDP** or **IPPROTO_TCP**. This routine returns one if it succeeds, zero otherwise. Automatically done by **svc_register**().

bool_t pmap_unset(unsigned long *prognum*, **unsigned long** *versnum*);

A user interface to the **portmap** service, which destroys all mapping between the triple [*prognum*,*versnum*,***] and **ports** on the machine's **portmap** service. This routine returns one if it succeeds, zero otherwise.

int registerrpc(unsigned long *prognum*, **unsigned long** *versnum*,
 unsigned long *procnum*, **char ***(*procname)**(char ***),**
 xdrproc_t *inproc*, **xdrproc_t** *outproc*);

Register procedure *procname* with the RPC service package. If a request arrives for program *prognum*, version *versnum*, and procedure *procnum*, *procname* is called with a pointer to its parameter(s); *progname* should return a pointer to its static result(s); *inproc* is used to decode the parameters while *outproc* is used to encode the results. This routine returns zero if the registration succeeded, -1 otherwise.

Warning: remote procedures registered in this form are accessed using the UDP/IP transport; see **svcudp_create**() for restrictions.

struct rpc_createerr *rpc_createerr*;

A global variable whose value is set by any RPC client creation routine that does not succeed. Use the routine **clnt_pcreateerror**() to print the reason why.

void svc_destroy(SVCXPRT ***xprt);**

A macro that destroys the RPC service transport handle, *xprt*. Destruction usually involves deallocation of private data structures, including *xprt* itself. Use of *xprt* is undefined after calling this routine.

fd_set *svc_fdset*;

A global variable reflecting the RPC service side's read file descriptor bit mask; it is suitable as a parameter to the select(2) system call. This is of interest only if a service implementor does their own asynchronous event processing, instead of calling **svc_run**(). This

variable is read-only (do not pass its address to select(2)!), yet it may change after calls to **svc_getreqset**() or any creation routines.

int *svc_fds***;**

Similar to **svc_fdset**, but limited to 32 descriptors. This interface is obsoleted by **svc_fdset**.

svc_freeargs(SVCXPRT **xprt***, xdrproc_t** *inproc***, char ****in***);**

A macro that frees any data allocated by the RPC/XDR system when it decoded the arguments to a service procedure using **svc_getargs**(). This routine returns 1 if the results were successfully freed, and zero otherwise.

svc_getargs(SVCXPRT **xprt***, xdrproc_t** *inproc***, char ****in***);**

A macro that decodes the arguments of an RPC request associated with the RPC service transport handle, *xprt*. The parameter *in* is the address where the arguments will be placed; *inproc* is the XDR routine used to decode the arguments. This routine returns one if decoding succeeds, and zero otherwise.

struct sockaddr_in *svc_getcaller(SVCXPRT **xprt***);**

The approved way of getting the network address of the caller of a procedure associated with the RPC service transport handle, *xprt*.

void svc_getreqset(fd_set **rdfds***);**

This routine is of interest only if a service implementor does not call **svc_run**(), but instead implements custom asynchronous event processing. It is called when the select(2) system call has determined that an RPC request has arrived on some RPC socket(s); *rdfds* is the resultant read file descriptor bit mask. The routine returns when all sockets associated with the value of *rdfds* have been serviced.

void svc_getreq(int *rdfds***);**

Similar to **svc_getreqset**(), but limited to 32 descriptors. This interface is obsoleted by **svc_getreqset**().

bool_t svc_register(SVCXPRT **xprt***, unsigned long** *prognum***,**
 unsigned long *versnum***,**
 void (**dispatch***)(svc_req *, SVCXPRT *),**
 unsigned long *protocol***);**

Associates *prognum* and *versnum* with the service dispatch procedure, *dispatch*. If *protocol* is zero, the service is not registered with the **portmap** service. If *protocol* is nonzero, then a mapping of the triple [*prognum,versnum,protocol*] to *xprt->xp_port* is established with the local **portmap** service (generally *protocol* is zero, **IPPROTO_UDP** or **IPPROTO_TCP**). The procedure *dispatch* has the following form:

dispatch(struct svc_req *request, SVCXPRT *xprt);

The **svc_register**() routine returns one if it succeeds, and zero otherwise.

void svc_run(void);

This routine never returns. It waits for RPC requests to arrive, and calls the appropriate service procedure using **svc_getreq**() when one arrives. This procedure is usually waiting for a select(2) system call to return.

bool_t svc_sendreply(SVCXPRT **xprt***, xdrproc_t** *outproc***, char ****out***);**

Called by an RPC service's dispatch routine to send the results of a remote procedure call. The parameter *xprt* is the request's associated transport handle; *outproc* is the XDR routine which is used to encode the results; and *out* is the address of the results. This routine returns one if it succeeds, zero otherwise.

void svc_unregister(unsigned long *prognum***, unsigned long** *versnum***);**

> Remove all mapping of the double [*prognum,versnum*] to dispatch routines, and of the triple [*prognum,versnum,**] to port number.

void svcerr_auth(SVCXPRT **xprt***, enum auth_stat** *why***);**

> Called by a service dispatch routine that refuses to perform a remote procedure call due to an authentication error.

void svcerr_decode(SVCXPRT **xprt***);**

> Called by a service dispatch routine that cannot successfully decode its parameters. See also **svc_getargs**().

void svcerr_noproc(SVCXPRT **xprt***);**

> Called by a service dispatch routine that does not implement the procedure number that the caller requests.

void svcerr_noprog(SVCXPRT **xprt***);**

> Called when the desired program is not registered with the RPC package. Service implementors usually do not need this routine.

void svcerr_progvers(SVCXPRT **xprt***);**

> Called when the desired version of a program is not registered with the RPC package. Service implementors usually do not need this routine.

void svcerr_systemerr(SVCXPRT **xprt***);**

> Called by a service dispatch routine when it detects a system error not covered by any particular protocol. For example, if a service can no longer allocate storage, it may call this routine.

void svcerr_weakauth(SVCXPRT **xprt***);**

> Called by a service dispatch routine that refuses to perform a remote procedure call due to insufficient authentication parameters. The routine calls **svcerr_auth(xprt, AUTH_TOOWEAK)**.

SVCXPRT *svcfd_create(int *fd***, unsigned int** *sendsize***,**
 unsigned int *recvsize***);**

> Create a service on top of any open descriptor. Typically, this descriptor is a connected socket for a stream protocol such as TCP. *sendsize* and *recvsize* indicate sizes for the send and receive buffers. If they are zero, a reasonable default is chosen.

SVCXPRT *svcraw_create(void);

> This routine creates a toy RPC service transport, to which it returns a pointer. The transport is really a buffer within the process's address space, so the corresponding RPC client should live in the same address space; see **clntraw_create**(). This routine allows simulation of RPC and acquisition of RPC overheads (such as round trip times), without any kernel interference. This routine returns NULL if it fails.

SVCXPRT *svctcp_create(int *sock***, unsigned int** *send_buf_size***,**
 unsigned int *recv_buf_size***);**

> This routine creates a TCP/IP-based RPC service transport, to which it returns a pointer. The transport is associated with the socket *sock*, which may be **RPC_ANYSOCK**, in which case a new socket is created. If the socket is not bound to a local TCP port, then this routine binds it to an arbitrary port. Upon completion, *xprt->xp_sock* is the transport's socket descriptor, and *xprt->xp_port* is the transport's port number. This routine returns NULL if it fails. Since TCP-based RPC uses buffered I/O, users may specify the size of buffers; values of zero choose suitable defaults.

SVCXPRT *svcudp_bufcreate(int *sock***, unsigned int** *sendsize***,**
  unsigned int *recosize***);**

>   This routine creates a UDP/IP-based RPC service transport, to which it returns a
>   pointer. The transport is associated with the socket *sock*, which may be
>   **RPC_ANYSOCK**, in which case a new socket is created. If the socket is not bound to
>   a local UDP port, then this routine binds it to an arbitrary port. Upon completion,
>   *xprt->xp_sock* is the transport's socket descriptor, and *xprt->xp_port* is the transport's
>   port number. This routine returns NULL if it fails.

>   This allows the user to specify the maximum packet size for sending and receiving UDP-
>   based RPC messages.

SVCXPRT *svcudp_create(int *sock***);**

>   This call is equivalent to *svcudp_bufcreate(sock,SZ,SZ)* for some default size *SZ*.

bool_t xdr_accepted_reply(XDR **xdrs***, struct accepted_reply ****ar***);**

>   Used for encoding RPC reply messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to gen-
>   erate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

bool_t xdr_authunix_parms(XDR **xdrs***, struct authunix_parms ****aupp***);**

>   Used for describing UNIX credentials. This routine is useful for users who wish to gener-
>   ate these credentials without using the RPC authentication package.

void xdr_callhdr(XDR **xdrs***, struct rpc_msg ****chdr***);**

>   Used for describing RPC call header messages. This routine is useful for users who wish
>   to generate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

bool_t xdr_callmsg(XDR **xdrs***, struct rpc_msg ****cmsg***);**

>   Used for describing RPC call messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to gen-
>   erate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

bool_t xdr_opaque_auth(XDR **xdrs***, struct opaque_auth ****ap***);**

>   Used for describing RPC authentication information messages. This routine is useful for
>   users who wish to generate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

bool_t xdr_pmap(XDR **xdrs***, struct pmap ****regs***);**

>   Used for describing parameters to various **portmap** procedures, externally. This routine
>   is useful for users who wish to generate these parameters without using the **pmap** inter-
>   face.

bool_t xdr_pmaplist(XDR **xdrs***, struct pmaplist *****rp***);**

>   Used for describing a list of port mappings, externally. This routine is useful for users
>   who wish to generate these parameters without using the **pmap** interface.

bool_t xdr_rejected_reply(XDR **xdrs***, struct rejected_reply ****rr***);**

>   Used for describing RPC reply messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to
>   generate RPC-style messages without using the RPC package.

bool_t xdr_replymsg(XDR **xdrs***, struct rpc_msg ****rmsg***);**

>   Used for describing RPC reply messages. This routine is useful for users who wish to
>   generate RPC style messages without using the RPC package.

void xprt_register(SVCXPRT **xprt***);**

>   After RPC service transport handles are created, they should register themselves with the
>   RPC service package. This routine modifies the global variable *svc_fds*. Service imple-
>   mentors usually do not need this routine.

void xprt_unregister(SVCXPRT **xprt***);**

> Before an RPC service transport handle is destroyed, it should unregister itself with the RPC service package. This routine modifies the global variable *svc_fds*. Service implementors usually do not need this routine.

SEE ALSO

> xdr(3)

> The following manuals:
>> Remote Procedure Calls: Protocol Specification
>> Remote Procedure Call Programming Guide
>> rpcgen Programming Guide

> *RPC: Remote Procedure Call Protocol Specification*, RFC 1050, Sun Microsystems, Inc., USC-ISI.

COLOPHON

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