

NAME

daemon - run in the background

SYNOPSIS

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

```
int daemon(int nochdir, int noclose);
```

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

```
daemon(): _BSD_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)
```

DESCRIPTION

The **daemon()** function is for programs wishing to detach themselves from the controlling terminal and run in the background as system daemons.

If *nochdir* is zero, **daemon()** changes the calling process's current working directory to the root directory (/); otherwise, the current working directory is left unchanged.

If *noclose* is zero, **daemon()** redirects standard input, standard output and standard error to */dev/null*; otherwise, no changes are made to these file descriptors.

RETURN VALUE

(This function forks, and if the [fork\(2\)](#) succeeds, the parent calls [_exit\(2\)](#), so that further errors are seen by the child only.) On success **daemon()** returns zero. If an error occurs, **daemon()** returns -1 and sets *errno* to any of the errors specified for the [fork\(2\)](#) and [setsid\(2\)](#).

ATTRIBUTES

Multithreading (see [pthreads\(7\)](#))

The **daemon()** function is thread-safe.

CONFORMING TO

Not in POSIX.1-2001. A similar function appears on the BSDs. The **daemon()** function first appeared in 4.4BSD.

NOTES

The glibc implementation can also return -1 when */dev/null* exists but is not a character device with the expected major and minor numbers. In this case, *errno* need not be set.

SEE ALSO

[fork\(2\)](#), [setsid\(2\)](#)

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/>.