

NAME

initgroups - initialize the supplementary group access list

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <grp.h>
```

```
int initgroups(const char *user, gid_t group);
```

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

```
initgroups(): _BSD_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

The **initgroups()** function initializes the group access list by reading the group database */etc/group* and using all groups of which *user* is a member. The additional group *group* is also added to the list.

The *user* argument must be non-NULL.

RETURN VALUE

The **initgroups()** function returns 0 on success. On error, -1 is returned, and *errno* is set appropriately.

ERRORS**ENOMEM**

Insufficient memory to allocate group information structure.

EPERM

The calling process has insufficient privilege. See the underlying system call [setgroups\(2\)](#).

FILES

/etc/group group database file

CONFORMING TO

SVr4, 4.3BSD.

SEE ALSO

[getgroups\(2\)](#), [setgroups\(2\)](#), [credentials\(7\)](#)

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/>.