

NAME

`program_invocation_name`, `program_invocation_short_name` - obtain name used to invoke calling program

SYNOPSIS

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE /* See feature\_test\_macros\(7\)
*/
#include <errno.h>

extern char *program_invocation_name;
extern char *program_invocation_short_name;
```

DESCRIPTION

`program_invocation_name` contains the name that was used to invoke the calling program. This is the same as the value of `argv[0]` in `main()`, with the difference that the scope of `program_invocation_name` is global.

`program_invocation_short_name` contains the basename component of name that was used to invoke the calling program. That is, it is the same value as `program_invocation_name`, with all text up to and including the final slash (`/`), if any, removed.

These variables are automatically initialized by the glibc run-time startup code.

CONFORMING TO

These variables are GNU extensions, and should not be used in programs intended to be portable.

NOTES

The Linux-specific `/proc/[number]/cmdline` file provides access to similar information.

SEE ALSO

[proc\(5\)](#)

COLOPHON

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