

**NAME**

rtnetlink - macros to manipulate rtnetlink messages

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <asm/types.h>
#include <linux/netlink.h>
#include <linux/rtnetlink.h>
#include <sys/socket.h>

rtnetlink_socket = socket(AF_NETLINK, int socket_type, NETLINK_ROUTE);

int RTA_OK(struct rtattr *rta, int rtabuflen);

void *RTA_DATA(struct rtattr *rta);

unsigned int RTA_PAYLOAD(struct rtattr *rta);

struct rtattr *RTA_NEXT(struct rtattr *rta, unsigned int rtabuflen);

unsigned int RTA_LENGTH(unsigned int length);

unsigned int RTA_SPACE(unsigned int length);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

All [rtnetlink\(7\)](#) messages consist of a [netlink\(7\)](#) message header and appended attributes. The attributes should be manipulated only using the macros provided here.

**RTA\_OK**(*rta*, *attrlen*) returns true if *rta* points to a valid routing attribute; *attrlen* is the running length of the attribute buffer. When not true then you must assume there are no more attributes in the message, even if *attrlen* is nonzero.

**RTA\_DATA**(*rta*) returns a pointer to the start of this attribute's data.

**RTA\_PAYLOAD**(*rta*) returns the length of this attribute's data.

**RTA\_NEXT**(*rta*, *attrlen*) gets the next attribute after *rta*. Calling this macro will update *attrlen*. You should use **RTA\_OK** to check the validity of the returned pointer.

**RTA\_LENGTH**(*len*) returns the length which is required for *len* bytes of data plus the header.

**RTA\_SPACE**(*len*) returns the amount of space which will be needed in a message with *len* bytes of data.

**CONFORMING TO**

These macros are nonstandard Linux extensions.

**BUGS**

This manual page is incomplete.

**EXAMPLE**

Creating a rtnetlink message to set the MTU of a device:

```
#include <linux/rtnetlink.h>

struct {
    struct nlmsg_hdr nh;
    struct ifinfomsg if;
    char attrbuf[512];
} req;

struct rtattr *rta;
unsigned int mtu = 1000;

int rtnetlink_sk = socket(AF_NETLINK, SOCK_DGRAM, NETLINK_ROUTE);

memset(&req, 0, sizeof(req));
req.nh.nlmsg_len = NLMSG_LENGTH(sizeof(struct ifinfomsg));
req.nh.nlmsg_flags = NLM_F_REQUEST;
```

```
req.nh.nlmsg_type = RTM_NEWLINK;
req.if.ifl_family = AF_UNSPEC;
req.if.ifl_index = INTERFACE_INDEX;
req.if.ifl_change = 0xffffffff; /* ??? */
rta = (struct rtattr *)(((char *) &req) +
NLMSG_ALIGN(req.nh.nlmsg_len));
rta->rta_type = IFLA_MTU;
rta->rta_len = RTA_LENGTH(sizeof(unsigned int));
req.nh.nlmsg_len = NLMSG_ALIGN(req.nh.nlmsg_len) +
RTA_LENGTH(sizeof(mtu));
memcpy(RTA_DATA(rta), &mtu, sizeof(mtu));
send(rtnetlink_sk, &req, req.nh.nlmsg_len, 0);
```

**SEE ALSO**

[netlink\(3\)](#), [netlink\(7\)](#), [rtnetlink\(7\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

This page is part of release 4.10 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 <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.