

NAME

ulimit - get and set user limits

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <ulimit.h>
```

```
long ulimit(int cmd, long newlimit);
```

DESCRIPTION

Warning: this routine is obsolete. Use [getrlimit\(2\)](#), [setrlimit\(2\)](#), and [sysconf\(3\)](#) instead. For the shell command [ulimit\(\)](#), see [bash\(1\)](#).

The [ulimit\(\)](#) call will get or set some limit for the calling process. The *cmd* argument can have one of the following values.

UL_GETFSIZE

Return the limit on the size of a file, in units of 512 bytes.

UL_SETFSIZE

Set the limit on the size of a file.

3 (Not implemented for Linux.) Return the maximum possible address of the data segment.

4 (Implemented but no symbolic constant provided.) Return the maximum number of files that the calling process can open.

RETURN VALUE

On success, [ulimit\(\)](#) returns a nonnegative value. On error, -1 is returned, and *errno* is set appropriately.

ERRORS**EPERM**

A unprivileged process tried to increase a limit.

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see [attributes\(7\)](#).

Interface	Attribute	Value
ulimit()	Thread safety	MT-Safe

CONFORMING TO

SVr4, POSIX.1-2001. POSIX.1-2008 marks [ulimit\(\)](#) as obsolete.

SEE ALSO

[bash\(1\)](#), [getrlimit\(2\)](#), [setrlimit\(2\)](#), [sysconf\(3\)](#)

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/>.