

**NAME**

`pam_exec` - PAM module which calls an external command

**SYNOPSIS**

`pam_exec.so` [`debug`] [`expose_authtok`] [`seteuid`] [`quiet`] [`stdout`] [`log=file`] [`type=type`] *command* [...]

**DESCRIPTION**

`pam_exec` is a PAM module that can be used to run an external command.

The child's environment is set to the current PAM environment list, as returned by `pam_getenvlist(3)`. In addition, the following PAM items are exported as environment variables: `PAM_RHOST`, `PAM_RUSER`, `PAM_SERVICE`, `PAM_TTY`, `PAM_USER` and `PAM_TYPE`, which contains one of the module types: **account**, **auth**, **password**, **open\_session** and **close\_session**.

Commands called by `pam_exec` need to be aware of that the user can have control over the environment.

**OPTIONS****debug**

Print debug information.

**expose\_authtok**

During authentication the calling command can read the password from `stdin(3)`. Only first `PAM_MAX_RESP_SIZE` bytes of a password are provided to the command.

**log=file**

The output of the command is appended to file

**type=type**

Only run the command if the module type matches the given type.

**stdout**

Per default the output of the executed command is written to `/dev/null`. With this option, the `stdout` output of the executed command is redirected to the calling application. It's in the responsibility of this application what happens with the output. The **log** option is ignored.

**quiet**

Per default `pam_exec.so` will echo the exit status of the external command if it fails. Specifying this option will suppress the message.

**seteuid**

Per default `pam_exec.so` will execute the external command with the real user ID of the calling process. Specifying this option means the command is run with the effective user ID.

**MODULE TYPES PROVIDED**

All module types (**auth**, **account**, **password** and **session**) are provided.

**RETURN VALUES****PAM\_SUCCESS**

The external command was run successfully.

**PAM\_SERVICE\_ERR**

No argument or a wrong number of arguments were given.

**PAM\_SYSTEM\_ERR**

A system error occurred or the command to execute failed.

**PAM\_IGNORE**

**pam\_setcred** was called, which does not execute the command. Or, the value given for the `type=` parameter did not match the module type.

**EXAMPLES**

Add the following line to `/etc/pam.d/passwd` to rebuild the NIS database after each local password change:

```
password optional pam_exec.so seteuid /usr/bin/make -C /var/yp
```

This will execute the command  
make -C /var/yp  
with effective user ID.

**SEE ALSO**

[pam.conf\(5\)](#), [pam.d\(5\)](#), [pam\(7\)](#)

**AUTHOR**

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