

# Extrait du man POSIX.4

14 Février 2002

## NAME

pthread\_create - create a new thread

## SYNOPSIS

```
#include <pthread.h>
```

```
int pthread_create(pthread_t * thread, pthread_attr_t *  
attr, void * (*start_routine)(void *), void * arg);
```

## DESCRIPTION

pthread\_create creates a new thread of control that executes concurrently with the calling thread. The new thread applies the function start\_routine passing it arg as first argument. The new thread terminates either explicitly, by calling pthread\_exit(3), or implicitly, by returning from the start\_routine function. The latter case is equivalent to calling pthread\_exit(3) with the result returned by start\_routine as exit code.

The attr argument specifies thread attributes to be applied to the new thread. See pthread\_attr\_init(3) for a complete list of thread attributes. The attr argument can also be NULL, in which case default attributes are used: the created thread is joinable (not detached) and has default (non real-time) scheduling policy.

## RETURN VALUE

On success, the identifier of the newly created thread is stored in the location pointed by the thread argument, and a 0 is returned. On error, a non-zero error code is returned.

## ERRORS

EAGAIN not enough system resources to create a process for the new thread.

EAGAIN more than PTHREAD\_THREADS\_MAX threads are already active.

#### NAME

`pthread_join` - wait for termination of another thread

#### SYNOPSIS

```
#include <pthread.h>
```

```
int pthread_join(pthread_t th, void **thread_return);
```

#### DESCRIPTION

`pthread_join` suspends the execution of the calling thread until the thread identified by `th` terminates, either by calling `pthread_exit(3)` or by being cancelled.

If `thread_return` is not `NULL`, the return value of `th` is stored in the location pointed to by `thread_return`. The return value of `th` is either the argument it gave to `pthread_exit(3)`, or `PTHREAD_CANCELED` if `th` was cancelled.

The joined thread `th` must be in the joinable state: it must not have been detached using `pthread_detach(3)` or the `PTHREAD_CREATE_DETACHED` attribute to `pthread_create(3)`.

When a joinable thread terminates, its memory resources (thread descriptor and stack) are not deallocated until another thread performs `pthread_join` on it. Therefore, `pthread_join` must be called once for each joinable thread created to avoid memory leaks.

At most one thread can wait for the termination of a given thread. Calling `pthread_join` on a thread `th` on which another thread is already waiting for termination returns an error.

#### RETURN VALUE

On success, the return value of `th` is stored in the location pointed to by `thread_return`, and 0 is returned. On error, a non-zero error code is returned.

#### ERRORS

**ESRCH** No thread could be found corresponding to that specified by `th`.

**EINVAL** The `th` thread has been detached.

**EINVAL** Another thread is already waiting on termination of `th`.

**EDEADLK**

The `th` argument refers to the calling thread.

#### NAME

`pthread_exit` - terminate the calling thread

#### SYNOPSIS

```
#include <pthread.h>
```

```
void pthread_exit(void *retval);
```

#### DESCRIPTION

`pthread_exit` terminates the execution of the calling thread. All cleanup handlers that have been set for the calling thread with `pthread_cleanup_push(3)` are executed in reverse order (the most recently pushed handler is executed first). Finalization functions for thread-specific data are then called for all keys that have non- NULL values associated with them in the calling thread (see `pthread_key_create(3)`). Finally, execution of the calling thread is stopped.

The `retval` argument is the return value of the thread. It can be consulted from another thread using `pthread_join(3)`.

#### RETURN VALUE

The `pthread_exit` function never returns.

## NAME

pthread\_mutex\_init, pthread\_mutex\_lock,  
pthread\_mutex\_unlock, pthread\_mutex\_destroy - opera  
tions on mutexes

## SYNOPSIS

```
#include <pthread.h>

pthread_mutex_t fastmutex = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;

pthread_mutex_t recmutex = PTHREAD_RECURSIVE_MUTEX_INI  
TIALIZER_NP;

pthread_mutex_t          errchkmutex          =  
PTHREAD_ERRORCHECK_MUTEX_INITIALIZER_NP;

int  pthread_mutex_init(pthread_mutex_t  *mutex,  const  
pthread_mutexattr_t *mutexattr);

int pthread_mutex_lock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex));

int pthread_mutex_unlock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);

int pthread_mutex_destroy(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);
```

## DESCRIPTION

A mutex is a MUTual EXclusion device, and is useful for protecting shared data structures from concurrent modifications, and implementing critical sections and monitors.

A mutex has two possible states: unlocked (not owned by any thread), and locked (owned by one thread). A mutex can never be owned by two different threads simultaneously. A thread attempting to lock a mutex that is already locked by another thread is suspended until the owning thread unlocks the mutex first.

pthread\_mutex\_init initializes the mutex object pointed to by mutex according to the mutex attributes specified in mutexattr. If mutexattr is NULL, default attributes are used instead.

Variables of type pthread\_mutex\_t can also be initialized statically, using the constants PTHREAD\_MUTEX\_INITIALIZER (for fast mutexes), PTHREAD\_RECURSIVE\_MUTEX\_INITIALIZER\_NP (for recursive mutexes), and PTHREAD\_ERRORCHECK\_MUTEX\_INITIALIZER\_NP (for error checking mutexes).

pthread\_mutex\_lock locks the given mutex. If the mutex is currently unlocked, it becomes locked and owned by the calling thread, and pthread\_mutex\_lock returns immediately. If the mutex is already locked by another thread, pthread\_mutex\_lock suspends the calling thread until the mutex is unlocked.

If the mutex is already locked by the calling thread, the behavior of `pthread_mutex_lock` depends on the kind of the mutex. If the mutex is of the “fast” kind, the calling thread is suspended until the mutex is unlocked, thus effectively causing the calling thread to deadlock. If the mutex is of the “error checking” kind, `pthread_mutex_lock` returns immediately with the error code `EDEADLK`. If the mutex is of the “recursive” kind, `pthread_mutex_lock` succeeds and returns immediately, recording the number of times the calling thread has locked the mutex. An equal number of `pthread_mutex_unlock` operations must be performed before the mutex returns to the unlocked state.

`pthread_mutex_unlock` unlocks the given mutex. The mutex is assumed to be locked and owned by the calling thread on entrance to `pthread_mutex_unlock`. If the mutex is of the “fast” kind, `pthread_mutex_unlock` always returns it to the unlocked state. If it is of the “recursive” kind, it decrements the locking count of the mutex (number of `pthread_mutex_lock` operations performed on it by the calling thread), and only when this count reaches zero is the mutex actually unlocked.

On “error checking” mutexes, `pthread_mutex_unlock` actually checks at run-time that the mutex is locked on entrance, and that it was locked by the same thread that is now calling `pthread_mutex_unlock`. If these conditions are not met, an error code is returned and the mutex remains unchanged. “Fast” and “recursive” mutexes perform no such checks, thus allowing a locked mutex to be unlocked by a thread other than its owner. This is non-portable behavior and must not be relied upon.

`pthread_mutex_destroy` destroys a mutex object, freeing the resources it might hold. The mutex must be unlocked on entrance.

#### RETURN VALUE

`pthread_mutex_init` always returns 0. The other mutex functions return 0 on success and a non-zero error code on error.

#### ERRORS

The `pthread_mutex_lock` function returns the following error code on error:

`EINVAL` the mutex has not been properly initialized.

`EDEADLK`

the mutex is already locked by the calling thread (“error checking” mutexes only).

EINVAL the mutex has not been properly initialized.

The pthread\_mutex\_unlock function returns the following error code on error:

EINVAL the mutex has not been properly initialized.

EPERM the calling thread does not own the mutex  
('error checking' mutexes only).

The pthread\_mutex\_destroy function returns the following error code on error:

EBUSY the mutex is currently locked.

## NAME

`sem_init`, `sem_wait`, `sem_post`,  
`sem_destroy` - operations on semaphores

## SYNOPSIS

```
#include <semaphore.h>

int sem_init(sem_t *sem, int pshared, unsigned int value);

int sem_wait(sem_t * sem);

int sem_post(sem_t * sem);

int sem_destroy(sem_t * sem);
```

## DESCRIPTION

Semaphores are counters for resources shared between threads. The basic operations on semaphores are: increment the counter atomically, and wait until the counter is non-null and decrement it atomically.

`sem_init` initializes the semaphore object pointed to by `sem`. The count associated with the semaphore is set initially to `value`. The `pshared` argument indicates whether the semaphore is local to the current process (`pshared` is zero) or is to be shared between several processes (`pshared` is not zero).

`sem_wait` suspends the calling thread until the semaphore pointed to by `sem` has non-zero count. It then atomically decreases the semaphore count.

`sem_post` atomically increases the count of the semaphore pointed to by `sem`. This function never blocks and can safely be used in asynchronous signal handlers.

`sem_destroy` destroys a semaphore object, freeing the resources it might hold. No threads should be waiting on the semaphore at the time `sem_destroy` is called.

## RETURN VALUE

The `sem_wait` and `sem_getvalue` functions always return 0. All other semaphore functions return 0 on success and -1 on error, in addition to writing an error code in `errno`.

## ERRORS

The `sem_init` function sets `errno` to the following codes on error:

`EINVAL` `value` exceeds the maximal counter value  
`SEM_VALUE_MAX`

`ENOSYS` `pshared` is not zero

The `sem_post` function sets `errno` to the following error code on error:

ERANGE after incrementation, the semaphore value would exceed `SEM_VALUE_MAX` (the semaphore count is left unchanged in this case)

The `sem_destroy` function sets `errno` to the following error code on error:

EBUSY some threads are currently blocked waiting on the semaphore.