



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'acct.2'

\$ man acct.2

acct(2) System Calls Manual acct(2)

NAME

acct - switch process accounting on or off

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int acct(const char *_Nullable path);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature_test_macros(7)):

acct():

Since glibc 2.21:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

In glibc 2.19 and 2.20:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)
```

Up to and including glibc 2.19:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)
```

DESCRIPTION

The `acct()` system call enables or disables process accounting. If called with the pathname of an existing file as its argument, accounting is turned on, and records for each terminating process are appended to the file as it terminates. An argument of `NULL` causes accounting to be turned off.

RETURN VALUE

On success, zero is returned. On error, -1 is returned, and `errno` is set to indicate the

error.

ERRORS

EACCES Write permission is denied for the specified file, or search permission is denied for one of the directories in the path prefix of path (see also `path_resolution(7)`), or path is not a regular file.

EFAULT path points outside your accessible address space.

EIO Error writing to the file path.

EISDIR path is a directory.

ELOOP Too many symbolic links were encountered in resolving path.

ENAMETOOLONG

path was too long.

ENFILE The system-wide limit on the total number of open files has been reached.

ENOENT The specified path does not exist.

ENOMEM Out of memory.

ENOSYS BSD process accounting has not been enabled when the operating system kernel was compiled. The kernel configuration parameter controlling this feature is `CONFIG_BSD_PROCESS_ACCT`.

ENOTDIR

A component used as a directory in path is not in fact a directory.

EPERM The calling process has insufficient privilege to enable process accounting. On Linux, the `CAP_SYS_PACCT` capability is required.

EROFS path refers to a file on a read-only filesystem.

EUSERS There are no more free file structures or we ran out of memory.

STANDARDS

None.

HISTORY

SVr4, 4.3BSD.

NOTES

No accounting is produced for programs running when a system crash occurs. In particular, nonterminating processes are never accounted for.

The structure of the records written to the accounting file is described in `acct(5)`.

SEE ALSO

`acct(5)`

