



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'initgroups.3'

\$ man initgroups.3

initgroups(3) Library Functions Manual initgroups(3)

NAME

initgroups - initialize the supplementary group access list

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/types.h>
```

```
#include <grp.h>
```

```
int initgroups(const char *user, gid_t group);
```

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

initgroups():

Since glibc 2.19:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

glibc 2.19 and earlier:

```
_BSD_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

The `initgroups()` function initializes the group access list by reading the group database `/etc/group` and using all groups of which user is a member. The additional group `group` is also added to the list.

The user argument must be non-NULL.

RETURN VALUE

The `initgroups()` function returns 0 on success. On error, -1 is returned, and `errno` is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS

ENOMEM Insufficient memory to allocate group information structure.

EPERM The calling process has insufficient privilege. See the underlying system call `set?`

```
groups(2).
```

FILES

```
/etc/group
```

group database file

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see `attributes(7)`.

[illegible]

? Interface		? Attribute	? Value	?
-------------	--	-------------	---------	---

[illegible]

? initgroups() ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe locale ?

[illegible]

STANDARDS

None.

HISTORY

SVr4, 4.3BSD.

SEE ALSO

```
getgroups(2), setgroups(2), credentials(7)
```

Linux man-pages 6.17

2026-02-08

```
initgroups(3)
```