



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'ipcs.1'

\$ man ipcs.1

IPCS(1) User Commands IPCS(1)

NAME

ipcs - show information on IPC facilities

SYNOPSIS

ipcs [options]

DESCRIPTION

ipcs shows information on System V inter-process communication facilities. By default it shows information about all three resources: shared memory segments, message queues, and semaphore arrays.

OPTIONS

-i, --id id

Show full details on just the one resource element identified by id. This option needs to be combined with one of the three resource options: -m, -q or -s.

-h, --help

Display help text and exit.

-V, --version

Display version and exit.

Resource options

-m, --shmems

Write information about active shared memory segments.

-q, --queues

Write information about active message queues.

-s, --semaphores

Write information about active semaphore sets.

-a, --all

Write information about all three resources (default).

Output formats

Of these options only one takes effect: the last one specified.

-c, --creator

Show creator and owner.

-l, --limits

Show resource limits.

-p, --pid

Show PIDs of creator and last operator.

-t, --time

Write time information. The time of the last control operation that changed the access permissions for all facilities, the time of the last msgsnd(2) and msgrcv(2) operations on message queues, the time of the last shmat(2) and shmdt(2) operations on shared memory, and the time of the last semop(2) operation on semaphores.

-u, --summary

Show status summary.

Representation

These affect only the -l (--limits) option.

-b, --bytes

Print the sizes in bytes rather than in a human-readable format.

By default, the unit, sizes are expressed in, is byte, and unit prefixes are in power of 2^{10} (1024). Abbreviations of symbols are exhibited truncated in order to reach a better readability, by exhibiting alone the first letter of them; examples: "1 KiB" and "1 MiB" are respectively exhibited as "1 K" and "1 M", then omitting on purpose the mention "iB", which is part of these abbreviations.

--human

Print sizes in human-readable format.

CONFORMING TO

The Linux ipcs utility is not fully compatible to the POSIX ipcs utility. The Linux version does not support the POSIX -a, -b and -o options, but does support the -l and -u options not defined by POSIX. A portable application shall not use the -a, -b, -o, -l, and -u options.

NOTES

The current implementation of `ipcs` obtains information about available IPC resources by parsing the files in `/proc/sysvipc`. Before `util-linux` version v2.23, an alternate mechanism was used: the `IPC_STAT` command of `msgctl(2)`, `semctl(2)`, and `shmctl(2)`. This mechanism is also used in later `util-linux` versions in the case where `/proc` is unavailable. A limitation of the `IPC_STAT` mechanism is that it can only be used to retrieve information about IPC resources for which the user has read permission.

AUTHORS

Krishna Balasubramanian <balasub@cis.ohio-state.edu>

SEE ALSO

`ipcmk(1)`, `ipcrm(1)`, `msgrcv(2)`, `msgsnd(2)`, `semget(2)`, `semop(2)`, `shmat(2)`, `shmdt(2)`, `shmget(2)`, `sysvipc(7)`

REPORTING BUGS

For bug reports, use the issue tracker <<https://github.com/util-linux/util-linux/issues>>.

AVAILABILITY

The `ipcs` command is part of the `util-linux` package which can be downloaded from Linux Kernel Archive <<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>>.

util-linux 2.41.3

2025-12-15

IPCS(1)