



## ***Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'mcheck.3'***

### ***\$ man mcheck.3***

mcheck(3)                      Library Functions Manual                      mcheck(3)

#### NAME

mcheck, mcheck\_check\_all, mcheck\_pedantic, mprobe - heap consistency checking

#### LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

#### SYNOPSIS

```
#include <mcheck.h>

int mcheck(sizeof(void (enum mcheck_status mstatus)) *f);

int mcheck_pedantic(
    sizeof(void (enum mcheck_status mstatus)) *f);

void mcheck_check_all(void);

enum mcheck_status mprobe(void *ptr);
```

#### DESCRIPTION

The `mcheck()` function installs a set of debugging hooks for the `malloc(3)` family of memory-allocation functions. These hooks cause certain consistency checks to be performed on the state of the heap. The checks can detect application errors such as freeing a block of memory more than once or corrupting the bookkeeping data structures that immediately precede a block of allocated memory.

To be effective, the `mcheck()` function must be called before the first call to `malloc(3)` or a related function. In cases where this is difficult to ensure, linking the program with `-lmcheck` inserts an implicit call to `mcheck()` (with a `NULL` argument) before the first call to a memory-allocation function.

The `mcheck_pedantic()` function is similar to `mcheck()`, but performs checks on all allocated

The `mcheck_check_all()` function causes an immediate check on all allocated blocks. This call is effective only if `mcheck()` is called beforehand.

The `mprobe()` function performs a consistency check on the block of allocated memory pointed to by `ptr`. The `mcheck()` function should be called beforehand (otherwise `mprobe()` returns `MCHECK_DISABLED`).

MCHECK\_DISABLED (mprobe() only)

MCHECK\_OK (mprobe() only)

MCHECK\_HEAD

MCHECK\_TAIL

MCHECK FREE

## RETURN VALUE

## ATTRIBUTES

[illegible][illegible]

? mprobe()                      ?                      ? const:malloc hooks   ?

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## STANDARDS

GNU.

## HISTORY

mcheck\_pedantic()

mcheck\_check\_all()

glibc 2.2.

mcheck()

mprobe()

glibc 2.0.

## NOTES

Linking a program with `-lmcheck` and using the `MALLOC_CHECK_` environment variable (described in `mallopt(3)`) cause the same kinds of errors to be detected. But, using `MALLOC_CHECK_` does not require the application to be relinked.

## EXAMPLES

The program below calls `mcheck()` with a `NULL` argument and then frees the same block of memory twice. The following shell session demonstrates what happens when running the program:

```
$ ./a.out
```

```
About to free
```

```
About to free a second time
```

```
block freed twice
```

```
Aborted (core dumped)
```

Program source

```
#include <mcheck.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdlib.h>

int

main(void)
{
    char *p;

    if (mcheck(NULL) != 0) {
        fprintf(stderr, "mcheck() failed\n");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
}
```

```
p = malloc(1000);  
fprintf(stderr, "About to free\n");  
free(p);  
fprintf(stderr, "\nAbout to free a second time\n");  
free(p);  
exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);  
}
```

#### SEE ALSO

[malloc\(3\)](#), [mallopt\(3\)](#), [mtrace\(3\)](#)

Linux man-pages 6.17

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[mcheck\(3\)](#)