



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

\$ man mprobe.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

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

2026-02-08

[mcheck\(3\)](#)