



## ***Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'nsenter.1'***

**\$ man nsenter.1**

NSENTER(1) User Commands NSENTER(1)

### NAME

nsenter - run program in different namespaces

### SYNOPSIS

nsenter [options] [program [arguments]]

### DESCRIPTION

The nsenter command executes program in the namespace(s) that are specified in the command-line options (described below). If program is not given, then "\${SHELL}" is run (default: /bin/sh).

Enterable namespaces are:

mount namespace

Mounting and unmounting filesystems will not affect the rest of the system, except for filesystems which are explicitly marked as shared (with mount --make-shared; see /proc/self/mountinfo for the shared flag). For further details, see mount\_namespaces(7) and the discussion of the CLONE\_NEWNS flag in clone(2).

UTS namespace

Setting hostname or domainname will not affect the rest of the system. For further details, see uts\_namespaces(7).

IPC namespace

The process will have an independent namespace for POSIX message queues as well as System V message queues, semaphore sets and shared memory segments. For further details, see ipc\_namespaces(7).

network namespace

The process will have independent IPv4 and IPv6 stacks, IP routing tables, firewall rules, the `/proc/net` and `/sys/class/net` directory trees, sockets, etc. For further details, see `network_namespaces(7)`.

#### PID namespace

Children will have a set of PID to process mappings separate from the `nsenter` process. `nsenter` will fork by default if changing the PID namespace, so that the new program and its children share the same PID namespace and are visible to each other. If `--no-fork` is used, the new program will be executed without forking. For further details, see `pid_namespaces(7)`.

#### user namespace

The process will have a distinct set of UIDs, GIDs and capabilities. For further details, see `user_namespaces(7)`.

#### cgroup namespace

The process will have a virtualized view of `/proc/self/cgroup`, and new cgroup mounts will be rooted at the namespace cgroup root. For further details, see `cgroup_namespaces(7)`.

#### time namespace

The process can have a distinct view of `CLOCK_MONOTONIC` and/or `CLOCK_BOOTTIME` which can be changed using `/proc/self/timens_offsets`. For further details, see `time_namespaces(7)`.

### OPTIONS

Various of the options below that relate to namespaces take an optional file argument. This should be one of the `/proc/[pid]/ns/*` files described in `namespaces(7)`, or the pathname of a bind mount that was created on one of those files.

`-a, --all`

Enter all namespaces of the target process by the default `/proc/[pid]/ns/*` namespace paths. The default paths to the target process namespaces may be overwritten by namespace specific options (e.g., `--all --mount=[path]`).

The user namespace will be ignored if the same as the caller's current user namespace. It prevents a caller that has dropped capabilities from regaining those capabilities via a call to `setns()`. See `setns(2)` for more details.

`-t, --target PID`

Specify a target process to get contexts from. The paths to the contexts specified by `pid` are:

/proc/pid/ns/mnt

the mount namespace

/proc/pid/ns/uts

the UTS namespace

/proc/pid/ns/ipc

the IPC namespace

/proc/pid/ns/net

the network namespace

/proc/pid/ns/pid

the PID namespace

/proc/pid/ns/user

the user namespace

/proc/pid/ns/cgroup

the cgroup namespace

/proc/pid/ns/time

the time namespace

/proc/pid/root

the root directory

/proc/pid/cwd

the working directory respectively

-m, --mount[=file]

Enter the mount namespace. If no file is specified, enter the mount namespace of the target process. If file is specified, enter the mount namespace specified by file.

-u, --uts[=file]

Enter the UTS namespace. If no file is specified, enter the UTS namespace of the target process. If file is specified, enter the UTS namespace specified by file.

-i, --ipc[=file]

Enter the IPC namespace. If no file is specified, enter the IPC namespace of the target process. If file is specified, enter the IPC namespace specified by file.

-n, --net[=file]

Enter the network namespace. If no file is specified, enter the network namespace of the target process. If file is specified, enter the network namespace specified by file.

-N, --net-socket fd

Enter the network namespace of the target process's socket. It requires --target process specified. Supported since Linux 5.6.

-p, --pid[=file]

Enter the PID namespace. If no file is specified, enter the PID namespace of the target process. If file is specified, enter the PID namespace specified by file.

-U, --user[=file]

Enter the user namespace. If no file is specified, enter the user namespace of the target process. If file is specified, enter the user namespace specified by file. See also the --setuid and --setgid options.

--user-parent

Enter the parent user namespace. Parent user namespace will be acquired from any other enabled namespace. If combined with --user option the parent user namespace will be fetched from the user namespace and replace it.

-C, --cgroup[=file]

Enter the cgroup namespace. If no file is specified, enter the cgroup namespace of the target process. If file is specified, enter the cgroup namespace specified by file.

-T, --time[=file]

Enter the time namespace. If no file is specified, enter the time namespace of the target process. If file is specified, enter the time namespace specified by file.

-G, --setgid gid

Set the group ID which will be used in the entered namespace and drop supplementary groups. nsenter always sets GID for user namespaces, the default is 0. If the argument "follow" is specified the GID of the target process is used.

-S, --setuid uid

Set the user ID which will be used in the entered namespace. nsenter always sets UID for user namespaces, the default is 0. If the argument "follow" is specified the UID of the target process is used.

--keep-caps

When the --user option is given, ensure that capabilities granted in the user namespace are preserved in the child process.

--preserve-credentials

Don't modify UID and GID when enter user namespace. The default is to drop supplementary groups and sets GID and UID to 0.

`-r, --root[=directory]`

Set the root directory. If no directory is specified, set the root directory to the root directory of the target process. If directory is specified, set the root directory to the specified directory. The specified directory is open before it switches to the requested namespaces.

`-w, --wd[=directory]`

Set the working directory. If no directory is specified, set the working directory to the working directory of the target process. If directory is specified, set the working directory to the specified directory. The specified directory is open before it switches to the requested namespaces, it means the specified directory works as "tunnel" to the current namespace. See also `--wdns`.

`-W, --wdns[=directory]`

Set the working directory. The directory is open after switch to the requested namespaces and after `chroot(2)` call. The options `--wd` and `--wdns` are mutually exclusive.

`-e, --env`

Pass environment variables from the target process to the new process being created. If this option is not provided, the environment variables will remain the same as in the current namespace..

`-F, --no-fork`

Do not fork before `exec?`ing the specified program. By default, when entering a PID namespace, `nsenter` calls `fork` before calling `exec` so that any children will also be in the newly entered PID namespace.

`-Z, --follow-context`

Set the SELinux security context used for executing a new process according to already running process specified by `--target PID`. (The `util-linux` has to be compiled with SELinux support otherwise the option is unavailable.)

`-c, --join-cgroup`

Add the initiated process to the cgroup of the target process.

`-h, --help`

Display help text and exit.

`-V, --version`

Display version and exit.

The --user-parent option requires Linux 4.9 or higher, older kernels will raise inappropriate ioctl for device error.

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#### SEE ALSO

clone(2), setns(2), namespaces(7)

#### REPORTING BUGS

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

#### AVAILABILITY

The nsenter 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/>>.

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