



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

\$ man offsetof.3

offsetof(3) Library Functions Manual offsetof(3)

NAME

offsetof - offset of a structure member

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stddef.h>
```

```
size_t offsetof(type, member);
```

DESCRIPTION

The macro `offsetof()` returns the offset of the field member from the start of the structure type.

This macro is useful because the sizes of the fields that compose a structure can vary across implementations, and compilers may insert different numbers of padding bytes between fields. Consequently, an element's offset is not necessarily given by the sum of the sizes of the previous elements.

A compiler error will result if member is not aligned to a byte boundary (i.e., it is a bit field).

RETURN VALUE

`offsetof()` returns the offset of the given member within the given type, in units of bytes.

STANDARDS

C11, POSIX.1-2008.

HISTORY

POSIX.1-2001, C89.

EXAMPLES

On a Linux/i386 system, when compiled using the default gcc(1) options, the program below produces the following output:

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

```
offsets: i=0; c=4; d=8 a=16
```

```
sizeof(struct s)=16
```

Program source

```
#include <stddef.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdlib.h>

int

main(void)
{
    struct s {
        int i;
        char c;
        double d;
        char a[];
    };

    /* Output is compiler dependent */

    printf("offsets: i=%zu; c=%zu; d=%zu a=%zu\n",
        offsetof(struct s, i), offsetof(struct s, c),
        offsetof(struct s, d), offsetof(struct s, a));

    printf("sizeof(struct s)=%zu\n", sizeof(struct s));

    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```