



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

#### ***\$ man profil.3***

profil(3)                      Library Functions Manual                      profil(3)

#### NAME

profil - execution time profile

#### LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

#### SYNOPSIS

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int profil(unsigned short *buf, size_t bufsiz,  
           size_t offset, unsigned int scale);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature\_test\_macros(7)):

profil():

Since glibc 2.21:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

In glibc 2.19 and 2.20:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)
```

Up to and including glibc 2.19:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE < 500)
```

#### DESCRIPTION

This routine provides a means to find out in what areas your program spends most of its time. The argument buf points to bufsiz bytes of core. Every virtual 10 milliseconds, the user's program counter (PC) is examined: offset is subtracted and the result is multiplied by scale and divided by 65536. If the resulting value is less than bufsiz, then the corresponding entry in buf is incremented. If buf is NULL, profiling is disabled.

## RETURN VALUE

Zero is always returned.

## ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see `attributes(7)`.

[illegible]

| ? | Interface | ? | Attribute | ? | Value | ? |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|-------|---|
|---|-----------|---|-----------|---|-------|---|

[illegible]

? profil()                      ? Thread safety ? MT-Unsafe ?

[illegible]

## STANDARDS

None.

## HISTORY

Similar to a call in SVr4.

## BUGS

`profil()` cannot be used on a program that also uses `ITIMER_PROF` interval timers (see `setitimer(2)`).

True kernel profiling provides more accurate results.

SEE ALSO

```
gprof(1), sprof(1), setitimer(2), sigaction(2), signal(2)
```

Linux man-pages 6.17

2026-02-08

```
profil(3)
```