



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

\$ man program_invocation_name.3

program_invocation_name(3) Library Functions Manual program_invocation_name(3)

NAME

program_invocation_name, program_invocation_short_name - obtain name used to invoke calling program

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE      /* See feature_test_macros(7) */

#include <errno.h>

extern char *program_invocation_name;

extern char *program_invocation_short_name;
```

DESCRIPTION

program_invocation_name contains the name that was used to invoke the calling program. This is the same as the value of argv[0] in main(), with the difference that the scope of program_invocation_name is global.

program_invocation_short_name contains the basename component of name that was used to invoke the calling program. That is, it is the same value as program_invocation_name, with all text up to and including the final slash (/), if any, removed.

These variables are automatically initialized by the glibc run-time startup code.

VERSIONS

The Linux-specific /proc/pid/cmdline file provides access to similar information.

STANDARDS

GNU.

SEE ALSO

[proc\(5\)](#)

[Linux man-pages 6.17](#)

2026-02-08

[program_invocation_name\(3\)](#)