



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

\$ man rexec_af.3

rexec(3) Library Functions Manual rexec(3)

NAME

rexec, rexec_af - return stream to a remote command

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <netdb.h>
```

[[deprecated]]

```
int rexec(char **restrict ahost, int inport,  
          const char *restrict user, const char *restrict passwd,  
          const char *restrict cmd, int *restrict fd2p);
```

[[deprecated]]

```
int rexec_af(char **restrict ahost, int inport,  
             const char *restrict user, const char *restrict passwd,  
             const char *restrict cmd, int *restrict fd2p,  
             sa_family_t af);
```

rexec(), rexec_af():

Since glibc 2.19:

 _DEFAULT_SOURCE

In glibc up to and including 2.19:

 _BSD_SOURCE

DESCRIPTION

This interface is obsoleted by rcmd(3).

The `rexec()` function looks up the host `*ahost` using `gethostbyname(3)`, returning `-1` if the host does not exist. Otherwise, `*ahost` is set to the standard name of the host. If a user's name and password are both specified, then these are used to authenticate to the foreign host; otherwise, the environment and then the `.netrc` file in user's home directory are searched for appropriate information. If all this fails, the user is prompted for the information.

The `port` `inport` specifies which well-known DARPA Internet port to use for the connection; the call `getservbyname("exec", "tcp")` (see `getservent(3)`) will return a pointer to a `struct` that contains the necessary port. The protocol for connection is described in detail in `rexecd(8)`.

If the connection succeeds, a socket in the Internet domain of type SOCK_STREAM is returned to the caller, and given to the remote command as stdin and stdout. If fd2p is nonzero, then an auxiliary channel to a control process will be setup, and a file descriptor for it will be placed in *fd2p. The control process will return diagnostic output from the command (unit 2) on this channel, and will also accept bytes on this channel as being UNIX signal numbers, to be forwarded to the process group of the command. The diagnostic information returned does not include remote authorization failure, as the secondary connection is set up after authorization has been verified. If fd2p is 0, then the stderr (unit 2 of the remote command) will be made the same as the stdout and no provision is made for sending arbitrary signals to the remote process, although you may be able to get its attention by using out-of-band data.

```
rexec_af()
```

The `rexec()` function works over IPv4 (`AF_INET`). By contrast, the `rexec_af()` function provides an extra argument, `af`, that allows the caller to select the protocol. This argument can be specified as `AF_INET`, `AF_INET6`, or `AF_UNSPEC` (to allow the implementation to select the protocol).

ATTRIBUTES

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

[illegible]

?	Interface	?	Attribute	?	Value	?
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[illegible]

? rexec(), rexec_af() ? Thread safety ? MT-Unsafe ?

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STANDARDS

None.

HISTORY

rexec()

4.2BSD, BSD, Solaris.

rexec_af()

glibc 2.2.

BUGS

The rexec() function sends the unencrypted password across the network.

The underlying service is considered a big security hole, and therefore, not enabled on many sites; see rexecd(8) for explanations.

SEE ALSO

rcmd(3), rexecd(8)

Linux man-pages 6.17

2025-09-21

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