



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'setxattr.2'

\$ man setxattr.2

setxattr(2) System Calls Manual setxattr(2)

NAME

setxattr, lsetxattr, fsetxattr - set an extended attribute value

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/xattr.h>
```

```
int setxattr(size_t size;
             const char *path, const char *name,
             const void value[size], size_t size, int flags);
```

```
int lsetxattr(size_t size;
             const char *path, const char *name,
             const void value[size], size_t size, int flags);
```

```
int fsetxattr(size_t size;
             int fd, const char *name,
             const void value[size], size_t size, int flags);
```

DESCRIPTION

Extended attributes are name:value pairs associated with inodes (files, directories, symbolic links, etc.). They are extensions to the normal attributes which are associated with all inodes in the system (i.e., the stat(2) data). A complete overview of extended attributes concepts can be found in xattr(7).

setxattr() sets the value of the extended attribute identified by name and associated with the given path in the filesystem. The size argument specifies the size (in bytes) of value;

a zero-length value is permitted.

lsetxattr() is identical to setxattr(), except in the case of a symbolic link, where the extended attribute is set on the link itself, not the file that it refers to.

fsetxattr() is identical to setxattr(), only the extended attribute is set on the open file referred to by fd (as returned by open(2)) in place of path.

An extended attribute name is a null-terminated string. The name includes a namespace prefix; there may be several, disjoint namespaces associated with an individual inode. The value of an extended attribute is a chunk of arbitrary textual or binary data of specified length.

By default (i.e., flags is zero), the extended attribute will be created if it does not exist, or the value will be replaced if the attribute already exists. To modify these semantics, one of the following values can be specified in flags:

XATTR_CREATE

Perform a pure create, which fails if the named attribute exists already.

XATTR_REPLACE

Perform a pure replace operation, which fails if the named attribute does not already exist.

RETURN VALUE

On success, zero is returned. On failure, -1 is returned and errno is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS

EDQUOT Disk quota limits meant that there is insufficient space remaining to store the extended attribute.

EEXIST XATTR_CREATE was specified, and the attribute exists already.

ENODATA

XATTR_REPLACE was specified, and the attribute does not exist.

ENOSPC There is insufficient space remaining to store the extended attribute.

ENOTSUP

The namespace prefix of name is not valid.

ENOTSUP

Extended attributes are not supported by the filesystem, or are disabled,

EPERM The file is marked immutable or append-only. (See FS_IOC_SETFLAGS(2const).)

In addition, the errors documented in stat(2) can also occur.

ERANGE The size of name or value exceeds a filesystem-specific limit.

STANDARDS

Linux.

HISTORY

Linux 2.4, glibc 2.3.

SEE ALSO

getfattr(1), setfattr(1), getxattr(2), listxattr(2), open(2), removexattr(2), stat(2), sym?

link(7), xattr(7)

Linux man-pages 6.17

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