



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'vm86old.2'

\$ man vm86old.2

vm86(2) System Calls Manual vm86(2)

NAME

vm86old, vm86 - enter virtual 8086 mode

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/vm86.h>

int vm86old(struct vm86_struct *info);

int vm86(unsigned long fn, struct vm86plus_struct *v86);
```

DESCRIPTION

The system call `vm86()` was introduced in Linux 0.97p2. In Linux 2.1.15 and 2.0.28, it was renamed to `vm86old()`, and a new `vm86()` was introduced. The definition of `struct vm86_struct` was changed in 1.1.8 and 1.1.9.

These calls cause the process to enter VM86 mode (virtual-8086 in Intel literature), and are used by `dosemu`.

VM86 mode is an emulation of real mode within a protected mode task.

RETURN VALUE

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

ERRORS

EFAULT This return value is specific to i386 and indicates a problem with getting user-space data.

ENOSYS This return value indicates the call is not implemented on the present architecture.

EPERM Saved kernel stack exists. (This is a kernel sanity check; the saved stack should exist only within vm86 mode itself.)

STANDARDS

Linux on 32-bit Intel processors.

Linux man-pages 6.17

2026-02-08

vm86(2)