

NAME

closelog, openlog, syslog, vsyslog – send messages to the system logger

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <syslog.h>
```

```
void openlog(const char *ident, int option, int facility);
```

```
void syslog(int priority, const char *format, ...);
```

```
void closelog(void);
```

```
void vsyslog(int priority, const char *format, va_list ap);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature_test_macros\(7\)](#)):

vsyslog():

Since glibc 2.19:

`_DEFAULT_SOURCE`

Glibc 2.19 and earlier:

`_BSD_SOURCE`

DESCRIPTION**openlog()**

openlog() opens a connection to the system logger for a program.

The string pointed to by *ident* is prepended to every message, and is typically set to the program name. If *ident* is NULL, the program name is used. (POSIX.1-2008 does not specify the behavior when *ident* is NULL.)

The *option* argument specifies flags which control the operation of **openlog()** and subsequent calls to **syslog()**. The *facility* argument establishes a default to be used if none is specified in subsequent calls to **syslog()**. The values that may be specified for *option* and *facility* are described below.

The use of **openlog()** is optional; it will automatically be called by **syslog()** if necessary, in which case *ident* will default to NULL.

syslog() and vsyslog()

syslog() generates a log message, which will be distributed by **syslogd(8)**.

The *priority* argument is formed by ORing together a *facility* value and a *level* value (described below). If no *facility* value is ORed into *priority*, then the default value set by **openlog()** is used, or, if there was no preceding **openlog()** call, a default of **LOG_USER** is employed.

The remaining arguments are a *format*, as in **printf(3)**, and any arguments required by the *format*, except that the two-character sequence `%m` will be replaced by the error message string *strerror(errno)*. The format string need not include a terminating newline character.

The function **vsyslog()** performs the same task as **syslog()** with the difference that it takes a set of arguments which have been obtained using the **stdarg(3)** variable argument list macros.

closelog()

closelog() closes the file descriptor being used to write to the system logger. The use of **closelog()** is optional.

Values for option

The *option* argument to **openlog()** is a bit mask constructed by ORing together any of the following values:

LOG_CONS Write directly to the system console if there is an error while sending to the system logger.

LOG_NDELAY Open the connection immediately (normally, the connection is opened when the first message is logged). This may be useful, for example, if a subsequent **chroot(2)** would make the pathname used internally by the logging facility unreachable.

LOG_NOWAIT Don't wait for child processes that may have been created while logging the message. (The GNU C library does not create a child process, so this option has no effect on

Linux.)

LOG_ODELAY The converse of **LOG_NDELAY**; opening of the connection is delayed until **syslog()** is called. (This is the default, and need not be specified.)

LOG_PERROR (Not in POSIX.1-2001 or POSIX.1-2008.) Also log the message to *stderr*.

LOG_PID Include the caller's PID with each message.

Values for *facility*

The *facility* argument is used to specify what type of program is logging the message. This lets the configuration file specify that messages from different facilities will be handled differently.

LOG_AUTH security/authorization messages

LOG_AUTHPRIV
security/authorization messages (private)

LOG_CRON clock daemon (**cron** and **at**)

LOG_DAEMON
system daemons without separate facility value

LOG_FTP ftp daemon

LOG_KERN kernel messages (these can't be generated from user processes)

LOG_LOCAL0 through **LOG_LOCAL7**
reserved for local use

LOG_LPR line printer subsystem

LOG_MAIL mail subsystem

LOG_NEWS USENET news subsystem

LOG_SYSLOG messages generated internally by **syslogd(8)**

LOG_USER (default)
generic user-level messages

LOG_UUCP UUCP subsystem

Values for *level*

This determines the importance of the message. The levels are, in order of decreasing importance:

LOG_EMERG system is unusable

LOG_ALERT action must be taken immediately

LOG_CRIT critical conditions

LOG_ERR error conditions

LOG_WARNING
warning conditions

LOG_NOTICE normal, but significant, condition

LOG_INFO informational message

LOG_DEBUG debug-level message

The function **setlogmask(3)** can be used to restrict logging to specified levels only.

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
openlog() , closelog()	Thread safety	MT-Safe
syslog() , vsyslog()	Thread safety	MT-Safe env locale

CONFORMING TO

The functions **openlog()**, **closelog()**, and **syslog()** (but not **vsyslog()**) are specified in SUSv2, POSIX.1-2001, and POSIX.1-2008.

POSIX.1-2001 specifies only the **LOG_USER** and **LOG_LOCAL*** values for *facility*. However, with the exception of **LOG_AUTHPRIV** and **LOG_FTP**, the other *facility* values appear on most UNIX systems.

The **LOG_PERROR** value for *option* is not specified by POSIX.1-2001 or POSIX.1-2008, but is available in most versions of UNIX.

NOTES

The argument *ident* in the call of **openlog()** is probably stored as-is. Thus, if the string it points to is changed, **syslog()** may start prepending the changed string, and if the string it points to ceases to exist, the results are undefined. Most portable is to use a string constant.

Never pass a string with user-supplied data as a format, use the following instead:

```
syslog(priority, "%s", string);
```

SEE ALSO

journalctl(1), **logger(1)**, **setlogmask(3)**, **syslog.conf(5)**, **syslogd(8)**

COLOPHON

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