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***Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'epoll\_create.2'***

**\$ man epoll\_create.2**

EPOLL\_CREATE(2)                      Linux Programmer's Manual                      EPOLL\_CREATE(2)

**NAME**

epoll\_create, epoll\_create1 - open an epoll file descriptor

**SYNOPSIS**

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

int epoll_create(int size);

int epoll_create1(int flags);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

epoll\_create() creates a new epoll(7) instance. Since Linux 2.6.8, the size argument is ignored, but must be greater than zero; see NOTES.

epoll\_create() returns a file descriptor referring to the new epoll instance. This file descriptor is used for all the subsequent calls to the epoll interface. When no longer required, the file descriptor returned by epoll\_create() should be closed by using close(2). When all file descriptors referring to an epoll instance have been closed, the kernel destroys the instance and releases the associated resources for reuse.

**epoll\_create1()**

If flags is 0, then, other than the fact that the obsolete size argument is dropped, epoll\_create1() is the same as epoll\_create(). The following value can be included in flags to obtain different behavior:

**EPOLL\_CLOEXEC**

Set the close-on-exec (FD\_CLOEXEC) flag on the new file descriptor. See the description of the O\_CLOEXEC flag in open(2) for reasons why this may be useful.

**RETURN VALUE**

On success, these system calls return a file descriptor (a nonnegative integer). On error, -1 is returned, and `errno` is set to indicate the error.

## ERRORS

`EINVAL` size is not positive.

`EINVAL` (`epoll_create1()`) Invalid value specified in flags.

`EMFILE` The per-user limit on the number of `epoll` instances imposed by `/proc/sys/fs/epoll/max_user_instances` was encountered. See `epoll(7)` for further details.

`EMFILE` The per-process limit on the number of open file descriptors has been reached.

`ENFILE` The system-wide limit on the total number of open files has been reached.

`ENOMEM` There was insufficient memory to create the kernel object.

## VERSIONS

`epoll_create()` was added to the kernel in version 2.6. Library support is provided in `glibc` starting with version 2.3.2.

`epoll_create1()` was added to the kernel in version 2.6.27. Library support is provided in `glibc` starting with version 2.9.

## CONFORMING TO

`epoll_create()` is Linux-specific.

## NOTES

In the initial `epoll_create()` implementation, the `size` argument informed the kernel of the number of file descriptors that the caller expected to add to the `epoll` instance. The kernel used this information as a hint for the amount of space to initially allocate in internal data structures describing events. (If necessary, the kernel would allocate more space if the caller's usage exceeded the hint given in `size`.) Nowadays, this hint is no longer required (the kernel dynamically sizes the required data structures without needing the hint), but `size` must still be greater than zero, in order to ensure backward compatibility when new `epoll` applications are run on older kernels.

## SEE ALSO

`close(2)`, `epoll_ctl(2)`, `epoll_wait(2)`, `epoll(7)`

## COLOPHON

This page is part of release 5.10 of the Linux man-pages project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.

