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### ***Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'getdents.2'***

**\$ man getdents.2**

GETDENTS(2)                      Linux Programmer's Manual                      GETDENTS(2)

NAME

getdents, getdents64 - get directory entries

SYNOPSIS

```
long getdents(unsigned int fd, struct linux_dirent *dirp,
              unsigned int count);
#define _GNU_SOURCE /* See feature_test_macros(7) */
```

```
#include <dirent.h>
```

```
ssize_t getdents64(int fd, void *dirp, size_t count);
```

Note: There is no glibc wrapper for getdents(); see NOTES.

DESCRIPTION

These are not the interfaces you are interested in. Look at readdir(3) for the POSIX-conforming C library interface. This page documents the bare kernel system call interfaces.

getdents()

The system call getdents() reads several linux\_dirent structures from the directory referred to by the open file descriptor fd into the buffer pointed to by dirp. The argument count specifies the size of that buffer.

The linux\_dirent structure is declared as follows:

```
struct linux_dirent {
    unsigned long d_ino; /* Inode number */
    unsigned long d_off; /* Offset to next linux_dirent */
    unsigned short d_reclen; /* Length of this linux_dirent */
    char d_name[]; /* Filename (null-terminated) */
```

```

        /* length is actually (d_reclen - 2 -
           offsetof(struct linux_dirent, d_name)) */
/*
char    pad;    // Zero padding byte
char    d_type; // File type (only since Linux
               // 2.6.4); offset is (d_reclen - 1)
*/
}

```

d\_ino is an inode number. d\_off is the distance from the start of the directory to the start of the next linux\_dirent. d\_reclen is the size of this entire linux\_dirent. d\_name is a null-terminated filename.

d\_type is a byte at the end of the structure that indicates the file type. It contains one of the following values (defined in <dirent.h>):

- DT\_BLK This is a block device.
- DT\_CHR This is a character device.
- DT\_DIR This is a directory.
- DT\_FIFO This is a named pipe (FIFO).
- DT\_LNK This is a symbolic link.
- DT\_REG This is a regular file.
- DT\_SOCKET This is a UNIX domain socket.
- DT\_UNKNOWN The file type is unknown.

The d\_type field is implemented since Linux 2.6.4. It occupies a space that was previously a zero-filled padding byte in the linux\_dirent structure. Thus, on kernels up to and including 2.6.3, attempting to access this field always provides the value 0 (DT\_UNKNOWN).

Currently, only some filesystems (among them: Btrfs, ext2, ext3, and ext4) have full support for returning the file type in d\_type. All applications must properly handle a return of DT\_UNKNOWN.

#### getdents64()

The original Linux getdents() system call did not handle large filesystems and large file offsets. Consequently, Linux 2.4 added getdents64(), with wider types for the d\_ino and d\_off fields. In addition, getdents64() supports an explicit d\_type field.

The getdents64() system call is like getdents(), except that its second argument is a

pointer to a buffer containing structures of the following type:

```
struct linux_dirent64 {
    ino64_t    d_ino; /* 64-bit inode number */
    off64_t    d_off; /* 64-bit offset to next structure */
    unsigned short d_reclen; /* Size of this dirent */
    unsigned char d_type; /* File type */
    char       d_name[]; /* Filename (null-terminated) */
};
```

## RETURN VALUE

On success, the number of bytes read is returned. On end of directory, 0 is returned. On error, -1 is returned, and `errno` is set appropriately.

## ERRORS

`EBADF` Invalid file descriptor `fd`.

`EFAULT` Argument points outside the calling process's address space.

`EINVAL` Result buffer is too small.

`ENOENT` No such directory.

`ENOTDIR`

File descriptor does not refer to a directory.

## CONFORMING TO

SVr4.

## NOTES

Library support for `getdents64()` was added in `glibc 2.30`; there is no `glibc` wrapper for `getdents()`. Calling `getdents()` (or `getdents64()` on earlier `glibc` versions) requires the use of `syscall(2)`. In that case you will need to define the `linux_dirent` or `linux_dirent64` structure yourself.

Probably, you want to use `readdir(3)` instead of these system calls.

These calls supersede `readdir(2)`.

## EXAMPLES

The program below demonstrates the use of `getdents()`. The following output shows an example of what we see when running this program on an `ext2` directory:

```
$ ./a.out /testfs/
```

```
----- nread=120 -----
```

```
inode#  file type  d_reclen  d_off  d_name
```

```

2 directory 16 12 .
2 directory 16 24 ..
11 directory 24 44 lost+found
12 regular 16 56 a
228929 directory 16 68 sub
16353 directory 16 80 sub2
130817 directory 16 4096 sub3

```

#### Program source

```

#define _GNU_SOURCE

#include <dirent.h> /* Defines DT_* constants */
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <stdint.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <sys/syscall.h>

#define handle_error(msg) \
    do { perror(msg); exit(EXIT_FAILURE); } while (0)

struct linux_dirent {
    unsigned long d_ino;
    off_t d_off;
    unsigned short d_reclen;
    char d_name[];
};

#define BUF_SIZE 1024

int
main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    int fd;
    long nread;
    char buf[BUF_SIZE];
    struct linux_dirent *d;

```

```

char d_type;

fd = open(argc > 1 ? argv[1] : ".", O_RDONLY | O_DIRECTORY);

if (fd == -1)
    handle_error("open");

for (;;) {
    nread = syscall(SYS_getdents, fd, buf, BUF_SIZE);
    if (nread == -1)
        handle_error("getdents");
    if (nread == 0)
        break;
    printf("----- nread=%d -----\n", nread);
    printf("inode#  file type d_reclen d_off  d_name\n");
    for (long bpos = 0; bpos < nread;) {
        d = (struct linux_dirent *) (buf + bpos);
        printf("%8ld ", d->d_ino);
        d_type = *(buf + bpos + d->d_reclen - 1);
        printf("%-10s ", (d_type == DT_REG) ? "regular" :
            (d_type == DT_DIR) ? "directory" :
            (d_type == DT_FIFO) ? "FIFO" :
            (d_type == DT_SOCKET) ? "socket" :
            (d_type == DT_LNK) ? "symlink" :
            (d_type == DT_BLK) ? "block dev" :
            (d_type == DT_CHR) ? "char dev" : "???");
        printf("%4d %10jd %s\n", d->d_reclen,
            (intmax_t) d->d_off, d->d_name);
        bpos += d->d_reclen;
    }
}

exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}

```

SEE ALSO

readdir(2), readdir(3), inode(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/>.

Linux

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