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### ***Rocky Enterprise Linux 9.2 Manual Pages on command 'mcheck.3'***

**\$ man mcheck.3**

MCHECK(3)                      Linux Programmer's Manual                      MCHECK(3)

NAME

mcheck, mcheck\_check\_all, mcheck\_pedantic, mprobe - heap consistency checking

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <mcheck.h>

int mcheck(void (*abortfunc)(enum mcheck_status mstatus));

int mcheck_pedantic(void (*abortfunc)(enum mcheck_status mstatus));

void mcheck_check_all(void);

enum mcheck_status mprobe(void *ptr);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `mcheck()` function installs a set of debugging hooks for the `malloc(3)` family of memory-allocation functions. These hooks cause certain consistency checks to be performed on the state of the heap. The checks can detect application errors such as freeing a block of memory more than once or corrupting the bookkeeping data structures that immediately precede a block of allocated memory.

To be effective, the `mcheck()` function must be called before the first call to `malloc(3)` or a related function. In cases where this is difficult to ensure, linking the program with `-lmcheck` inserts an implicit call to `mcheck()` (with a `NULL` argument) before the first call to a memory-allocation function.

The `mcheck_pedantic()` function is similar to `mcheck()`, but performs checks on all allocated blocks whenever one of the memory-allocation functions is called. This can be very slow!

The `mcheck_check_all()` function causes an immediate check on all allocated blocks. This

call is effective only if mcheck() is called beforehand.

If the system detects an inconsistency in the heap, the caller-supplied function pointed to by abortfunc is invoked with a single argument, mstatus, that indicates what type of inconsistency was detected. If abortfunc is NULL, a default function prints an error message on stderr and calls abort(3).

The mprobe() function performs a consistency check on the block of allocated memory pointed to by ptr. The mcheck() function should be called beforehand (otherwise mprobe() returns MCHECK\_DISABLED).

The following list describes the values returned by mprobe() or passed as the mstatus argument when abortfunc is invoked:

MCHECK\_DISABLED (mprobe() only)

mcheck() was not called before the first memory allocation function was called.

Consistency checking is not possible.

MCHECK\_OK (mprobe() only)

No inconsistency detected.

MCHECK\_HEAD

Memory preceding an allocated block was clobbered.

MCHECK\_TAIL

Memory following an allocated block was clobbered.

MCHECK\_FREE

A block of memory was freed twice.

RETURN VALUE

mcheck() and mcheck\_pedantic() return 0 on success, or -1 on error.

VERSIONS

The mcheck\_pedantic() and mcheck\_check\_all() functions are available since glibc 2.2. The mcheck() and mprobe() functions are present since at least glibc 2.0

ATTRIBUTES

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

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?Interface ? Attribute ? Value ?

??

?mcheck(), mcheck\_pedantic(), ? Thread safety ? MT-Unsafe race:mcheck ?

?mcheck\_check\_all(), mprobe() ? ? const:malloc\_hooks ?



```
    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);  
}
```

#### SEE ALSO

malloc(3), mallopt(3), mtrace(3)

#### 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/>.

GNU

2020-06-09

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