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

## \$ man sethostid.3

GETHOSTID(3)

Linux Programmer's Manual

GETHOSTID(3)

NAME

gethostid, sethostid - get or set the unique identifier of the current host

## **SYNOPSIS**

#include <unistd.h>

long gethostid(void);

int sethostid(long hostid);

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature test macros(7)):

gethostid():

\_BSD\_SOURCE || \_XOPEN\_SOURCE >= 500

sethostid():

Since glibc 2.21:

\_DEFAULT\_SOURCE

In glibc 2.19 and 2.20:

\_DEFAULT\_SOURCE || (\_XOPEN\_SOURCE && \_XOPEN\_SOURCE < 500)

Up to and including glibc 2.19:

\_BSD\_SOURCE || (\_XOPEN\_SOURCE && \_XOPEN\_SOURCE < 500)

## **DESCRIPTION**

gethostid() and sethostid() respectively get or set a unique 32-bit identifier for the current machine. The 32-bit identifier was intended to be unique among all UNIX systems in existence. This normally resembles the Internet address for the local machine, as re? turned by gethostbyname(3), and thus usually never needs to be set.

The sethostid() call is restricted to the superuser.

## **RETURN VALUE**

gethostid() returns the 32-bit identifier for the current host as set by sethostid().

On success, sethostid() returns 0; on error, -1 is returned, and errno is set to indicate the error.

#### **ERRORS**

sethostid() can fail with the following errors:

EACCES The caller did not have permission to write to the file used to store the host ID.

EPERM The calling process's effective user or group ID is not the same as its correspond? ing real ID.

### **ATTRIBUTES**

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

?Interface ? Attribute ? Value

?gethostid()? Thread safety? MT-Safe hostid env locale?

?sethostid()? Thread safety? MT-Unsafe const:hostid?

## **CONFORMING TO**

4.2BSD; these functions were dropped in 4.4BSD. SVr4 includes gethostid() but not sethostid().

POSIX.1-2001 and POSIX.1-2008 specify gethostid() but not sethostid().

## **NOTES**

In the glibc implementation, the hostid is stored in the file /etc/hostid. (In glibc ver?

sions before 2.2, the file /var/adm/hostid was used.)

In the glibc implementation, if gethostid() cannot open the file containing the host ID,

then it obtains the hostname using gethostname(2), passes that hostname to gethostby?

name\_r(3) in order to obtain the host's IPv4 address, and returns a value obtained by bit-

twiddling the IPv4 address. (This value may not be unique.)

### **BUGS**

It is impossible to ensure that the identifier is globally unique.

## SEE ALSO

## 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/.

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