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## **Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'acct.2' command**

**\$ man acct.2**

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

NAME

acct - switch process accounting on or off

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int acct(const char *filename);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature\_test\_macros(7)):

acct():

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

The acct() system call enables or disables process accounting. If called with the name of an existing file as its argument, accounting is turned on, and records for each terminating process are appended to filename as it terminates. An argument of NULL causes accounting to be turned off.

RETURN VALUE

On success, zero is returned. On error, -1 is returned, and errno is set appropriately.

## ERRORS

EACCES Write permission is denied for the specified file, or search permission is denied for one of the directories in the path prefix of filename (see also `path_resolution(7)`), or filename is not a regular file.

EFAULT filename points outside your accessible address space.

EIO Error writing to the file filename.

EISDIR filename is a directory.

ELOOP Too many symbolic links were encountered in resolving filename.

### ENAMETOOLONG

filename was too long.

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

ENOENT The specified file does not exist.

ENOMEM Out of memory.

ENOSYS BSD process accounting has not been enabled when the operating system kernel was compiled. The kernel configuration parameter controlling this feature is `CONFIG_BSD_PROCESS_ACCT`.

### ENOTDIR

A component used as a directory in filename is not in fact a directory.

EPERM The calling process has insufficient privilege to enable process accounting. On Linux, the `CAP_SYS_PACCT` capability is required.

EROFS filename refers to a file on a read-only filesystem.

EUSERS There are no more free file structures or we ran out of memory.

## CONFORMING TO

SVr4, 4.3BSD (but not POSIX).

## NOTES

No accounting is produced for programs running when a system occurs. In particular, nonterminating processes are never accounted for.

The structure of the records written to the accounting file is described in `acct(5)`.

## SEE ALSO

acct(5)

## 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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