

NAME

`initgroups` – initialize the supplementary group access list

SYNOPSIS

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

```
#include <grp.h>
```

```
int initgroups(const char *user, gid_t group);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature_test_macros\(7\)](#)):

initgroups():

Since glibc 2.19:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

Glibc 2.19 and earlier:

```
_BSD_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

The `initgroups()` function initializes the group access list by reading the group database `/etc/group` and using all groups of which `user` is a member. The additional group `group` is also added to the list.

The `user` argument must be non-NULL.

RETURN VALUE

The `initgroups()` function returns 0 on success. On error, `-1` is returned, and `errno` is set appropriately.

ERRORS**ENOMEM**

Insufficient memory to allocate group information structure.

EPERM

The calling process has insufficient privilege. See the underlying system call [setgroups\(2\)](#).

FILES

`/etc/group`

group database file

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
<code>initgroups()</code>	Thread safety	MT-Safe locale

CONFORMING TO

SVr4, 4.3BSD.

SEE ALSO

[getgroups\(2\)](#), [setgroups\(2\)](#), [credentials\(7\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 5.05 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/>.