

NAME

`on_exit` – register a function to be called at normal process termination

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
int on_exit(void (*function)(int , void *), void *arg);
```

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

`on_exit()`:

Since glibc 2.19:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

Glibc 2.19 and earlier:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

The `on_exit()` function registers the given *function* to be called at normal process termination, whether via `exit(3)` or via return from the program's *main()*. The *function* is passed the status argument given to the last call to `exit(3)` and the *arg* argument from `on_exit()`.

The same function may be registered multiple times: it is called once for each registration.

When a child process is created via `fork(2)`, it inherits copies of its parent's registrations. Upon a successful call to one of the `exec(3)` functions, all registrations are removed.

RETURN VALUE

The `on_exit()` function returns the value 0 if successful; otherwise it returns a nonzero value.

ATTRIBUTES

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

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

CONFORMING TO

This function comes from SunOS 4, but is also present in glibc. It no longer occurs in Solaris (SunOS 5). Portable application should avoid this function, and use the standard `atexit(3)` instead.

NOTES

By the time *function* is executed, stack (*auto*) variables may already have gone out of scope. Therefore, *arg* should not be a pointer to a stack variable; it may however be a pointer to a heap variable or a global variable.

SEE ALSO

`_exit(2)`, `atexit(3)`, `exit(3)`

COLOPHON

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