

**NAME**

**\_exit** - terminate the calling process

**LIBRARY**

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

**SYNOPSIS**

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

```
void
```

```
_exit(int status);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **\_exit()** system call terminates a process with the following consequences:

- All of the descriptors open in the calling process are closed. This may entail delays, for example, waiting for output to drain; a process in this state may not be killed, as it is already dying.
- If the parent process of the calling process has an outstanding **wait(2)** call or catches the **SIGCHLD** signal, it is notified of the calling process's termination and the *status* is set as defined by **wait(2)**.
- The parent process-ID of all of the calling process's existing child processes are set to the process-ID of the calling process's reaper; the reaper (normally the initialization process) inherits each of these processes (see **procctl(2)**, **init(8)** and the *DEFINITIONS* section of **intro(2)**).
- If the termination of the process causes any process group to become orphaned (usually because the parents of all members of the group have now exited; see "orphaned process group" in **intro(2)**), and if any member of the orphaned group is stopped, the **SIGHUP** signal and the **SIGCONT** signal are sent to all members of the newly-orphaned process group.
- If the process is a controlling process (see **intro(2)**), the **SIGHUP** signal is sent to the foreground process group of the controlling terminal, and all current access to the controlling terminal is revoked.

Most C programs call the library routine **exit(3)**, which flushes buffers, closes streams, unlinks temporary files, etc., before calling **\_exit()**.

**RETURN VALUES**

The **\_exit()** system call can never return.

**SEE ALSO**

fork(2), sigaction(2), wait(2), exit(3), init(8)

**STANDARDS**

The `_exit()` system call is expected to conform to IEEE Std 1003.1-1990 ("POSIX.1").

**HISTORY**

The `_exit()` function appeared in Version 7 AT&T UNIX.