

NAME

accept, **accept4** - accept a connection on a socket

LIBRARY

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

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

int

```
accept(int s, struct sockaddr * restrict addr, socklen_t * restrict addrlen);
```

int

```
accept4(int s, struct sockaddr * restrict addr, socklen_t * restrict addrlen, int flags);
```

DESCRIPTION

The argument *s* is a socket that has been created with `socket(2)`, bound to an address with `bind(2)`, and is listening for connections after a `listen(2)`. The `accept()` system call extracts the first connection request on the queue of pending connections, creates a new socket, and allocates a new file descriptor for the socket which inherits the state of the `O_NONBLOCK` and `O_ASYNC` properties and the destination of `SIGIO` and `SIGURG` signals from the original socket *s*.

The `accept4()` system call is similar, but the `O_NONBLOCK` property of the new socket is instead determined by the `SOCK_NONBLOCK` flag in the *flags* argument, the `O_ASYNC` property is cleared, the signal destination is cleared and the close-on-exec flag on the new file descriptor can be set via the `SOCK_CLOEXEC` flag in the *flags* argument.

If no pending connections are present on the queue, and the original socket is not marked as non-blocking, `accept()` blocks the caller until a connection is present. If the original socket is marked non-blocking and no pending connections are present on the queue, `accept()` returns an error as described below. The accepted socket may not be used to accept more connections. The original socket *s* remains open.

The argument *addr* is a result argument that is filled-in with the address of the connecting entity, as known to the communications layer. The exact format of the *addr* argument is determined by the domain in which the communication is occurring. A null pointer may be specified for *addr* if the address information is not desired; in this case, *addrlen* is not used and should also be null. Otherwise, the *addrlen* argument is a value-result argument; it should initially contain the amount of space pointed to by *addr*; on return it will contain the actual length (in bytes) of the address returned. This call is used

with connection-based socket types, currently with `SOCK_STREAM`.

It is possible to `select(2)` a socket for the purposes of doing an `accept()` by selecting it for read.

For certain protocols which require an explicit confirmation, such as ISO or DATAKIT, `accept()` can be thought of as merely dequeuing the next connection request and not implying confirmation.

Confirmation can be implied by a normal read or write on the new file descriptor, and rejection can be implied by closing the new socket.

For some applications, performance may be enhanced by using an `accept_filter(9)` to pre-process incoming connections.

When using `accept()`, portable programs should not rely on the `O_NONBLOCK` and `O_ASYNC` properties and the signal destination being inherited, but should set them explicitly using `fcntl(2)`; `accept4()` sets these properties consistently, but may not be fully portable across UNIX platforms.

RETURN VALUES

These calls return -1 on error. If they succeed, they return a non-negative integer that is a descriptor for the accepted socket.

ERRORS

The `accept()` and `accept4()` system calls will fail if:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| [EBADF] | The descriptor is invalid. |
| [EINTR] | The <code>accept()</code> operation was interrupted. |
| [EMFILE] | The per-process descriptor table is full. |
| [ENFILE] | The system file table is full. |
| [ENOTSOCK] | The descriptor references a file, not a socket. |
| [EINVAL] | <code>listen(2)</code> has not been called on the socket descriptor. |
| [EFAULT] | The <i>addr</i> argument is not in a writable part of the user address space. |
| [EWOULDBLOCK] or [EAGAIN] | The socket is marked non-blocking and no connections are present to be accepted. |

[ECONNABORTED]

A connection arrived, but it was closed while waiting on the listen queue.

The **accept4()** system call will also fail if:

[EINVAL]

The *flags* argument is invalid.

SEE ALSO

bind(2), connect(2), getpeername(2), getsockname(2), listen(2), select(2), socket(2), accept_filter(9)

HISTORY

The **accept()** system call appeared in 4.2BSD.

The **accept4()** system call appeared in FreeBSD 10.0.