NAME

exit, **_Exit** - perform normal program termination

LIBRARY

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

#include <stdlib.h>

void
exit(*int status*);

void
_Exit(*int status*);

DESCRIPTION

The **exit**() and **_Exit**() functions terminate a process.

Before termination, **exit**() performs the following functions in the order listed:

1. Call all functions registered with the __cxa_atexit(3) function (which are typically destructors from the loaded dynamic objects), and the functions registered with the atexit(3) function, in the reverse order of their registration.

2. Flush all open output streams.

3. Close all open streams.

The **_Exit**() function terminates without calling the functions registered with the atexit(3) function, and may or may not perform the other actions listed. The FreeBSD implementation of the **_Exit**() function does not call destructors registered with __cxa_atexit(3,) does not flush buffers, and does not close streams.

Both functions make the low-order eight bits of the *status* argument available to a parent process which has called a wait(2)-family function.

The C Standard (ISO/IEC 9899:1999 ("ISO C99")) defines the values 0, EXIT_SUCCESS, and EXIT_FAILURE as possible values of *status*. Cooperating processes may use other values; in a program which might be called by a mail transfer agent, the values described in sysexits(3) may be used to provide more information to the parent process.

Note that **exit**() does nothing to prevent bottomless recursion should a function registered using atexit(3) itself call **exit**(). Such functions must call **_Exit**() instead (although this has other effects as well which may not be desired).

RETURN VALUES
The **exit**() and **_Exit**() functions never return.

SEE ALSO
_exit(2), abort2(2), wait(2), at_quick_exit(3), atexit(3), intro(3), quick_exit(3), sysexits(3), tmpfile(3)

STANDARDS
The **exit**() and **_Exit**() functions conform to ISO/IEC 9899:1999 ("ISO C99").

HISTORY
The **exit**() function appeared in Version 1 AT&T UNIX.