

NAME

menu - curses extension for programming menus

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <menu.h>
```

DESCRIPTION

The **menu** library provides terminal-independent facilities for composing menu systems on character-cell terminals. The library includes: item routines, which create and modify menu items; and menu routines, which group items into menus, display menus on the screen, and handle interaction with the user.

The **menu** library uses the **curses** libraries, and a curses initialization routine such as **initscr** must be called before using any of these functions. To use the **menu** library, link with the options **-lmenu** **-lcurses**.

Current Default Values for Item Attributes

The **menu** library maintains a default value for item attributes. You can get or set this default by calling the appropriate **get_** or **set_** routine with a **NULL** item pointer. Changing this default with a **set_** function affects future item creations, but does not change the rendering of items already created.

Routine Name Index

The following table lists each **menu** routine and the name of the manual page on which it is described.

curses Routine Name	Manual Page Name
current_item	mitem_current(3X)
free_item	mitem_new(3X)
free_menu	menu_new(3X)
item_count	menu_items(3X)
item_description	mitem_name(3X)
item_index	mitem_current(3X)
item_init	menu_hook(3X)
item_name	mitem_name(3X)
item_opts	mitem_opts(3X)
item_opts_off	mitem_opts(3X)
item_opts_on	mitem_opts(3X)
item_term	menu_hook(3X)
item_userptr	mitem_userptr(3X)

item_value	mitem_value(3X)
item_visible	mitem_visible(3X)
menu_back	menu_attributes(3X)
menu_driver	menu_driver(3X)
menu_fore	menu_attributes(3X)
menu_format	menu_format(3X)
menu_grey	menu_attributes(3X)
menu_init	menu_hook(3X)
menu_items	menu_items(3X)
menu_mark	menu_mark(3X)
menu_opts	menu_opts(3X)
menu_opts_off	menu_opts(3X)
menu_opts_on	menu_opts(3X)
menu_pad	menu_attributes(3X)
menu_pattern	menu_pattern(3X)
menu_request_by_name	menu_requestname(3X)
menu_request_name	menu_requestname(3X)
menu_spacing	menu_spacing(3X)
menu_sub	menu_win(3X)
menu_term	menu_hook(3X)
menu_userptr	menu_userptr(3X)
menu_win	menu_win(3X)
new_item	mitem_new(3X)
new_menu	menu_new(3X)
pos_menu_cursor	menu_cursor(3X)
post_menu	menu_post(3X)
scale_menu	menu_win(3X)
set_current_item	mitem_current(3X)
set_item_init	menu_hook(3X)
set_item_opts	mitem_opts(3X)
set_item_term	menu_hook(3X)
set_item_userptr	mitem_userptr(3X)
set_item_value	mitem_value(3X)
set_menu_back	menu_attributes(3X)
set_menu_fore	menu_attributes(3X)
set_menu_format	menu_format(3X)
set_menu_grey	menu_attributes(3X)
set_menu_init	menu_hook(3X)
set_menu_items	menu_items(3X)
set_menu_mark	menu_mark(3X)

set_menu_opts	mitem_opts(3X)
set_menu_pad	menu_attributes(3X)
set_menu_pattern	menu_pattern(3X)
set_menu_spacing	menu_spacing(3X)
set_menu_sub	menu_win(3X)
set_menu_term	menu_hook(3X)
set_menu_userptr	menu_userptr(3X)
set_menu_win	menu_win(3X)
set_top_row	mitem_current(3X)
top_row	mitem_current(3X)
unpost_menu	menu_post(3X)

RETURN VALUE

Routines that return pointers return **NULL** on error. Routines that return an integer return one of the following error codes:

E_OK

The routine succeeded.

E_BAD_ARGUMENT

Routine detected an incorrect or out-of-range argument.

E_BAD_STATE

Routine was called from an initialization or termination function.

E_NO_MATCH

Character failed to match.

E_NO_ROOM

Menu is too large for its window.

E_NOT_CONNECTED

No items are connected to the menu.

E_NOT_POSTED

The menu has not been posted.

E_NOT_SELECTABLE

The designated item cannot be selected.

E_POSTED

The menu is already posted.

E_REQUEST_DENIED

The menu driver could not process the request.

E_SYSTEM_ERROR

System error occurred (see **errno(3)**).

E_UNKNOWN_COMMAND

The menu driver code saw an unknown request code.

NOTES

The header file **<menu.h>** automatically includes the header files **<curses.h>** and **<eti.h>**.

In your library list, libmenu.a should be before libncurses.a; that is, you should say "-lmenu -lncurses", not the other way around (which would give a link-error when using static libraries).

PORTABILITY

These routines emulate the System V menu library. They were not supported on Version 7 or BSD versions.

The menu facility was documented in SVr4.2 in *Character User Interface Programming (UNIX SVR4.2)*.

It is not part of X/Open Curses.

Aside from ncurses, there are few implementations:

- ⊕ systems based on SVr4 source code, e.g., Solaris.
- ⊕ NetBSD curses.

AUTHORS

Juergen Pfeifer. Manual pages and adaptation for ncurses by Eric S. Raymond.

SEE ALSO

curses(3X) and related pages whose names begin "menu_" for detailed descriptions of the entry points.

This describes **ncurses** version 6.2 (patch 20210220).