

**NAME**

**nlist** - retrieve symbol table name list from an executable file

**LIBRARY**

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <nlist.h>
```

*int*

```
nlist(const char *filename, struct nlist *nl);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **nlist()** function retrieves name list entries from the symbol table of an executable file (see [a.out\(5\)](#)). The argument *nl* is set to reference the beginning of the list. The list is preened of binary and invalid data; if an entry in the name list is valid, the *n\_type* and *n\_value* for the entry are copied into the list referenced by *nl*. No other data is copied. The last entry in the list is always NULL.

**RETURN VALUES**

The number of invalid entries is returned if successful; otherwise, if the file *filename* does not exist or is not executable, the returned value is -1.

**SEE ALSO**

[elf\(5\)](#)

**HISTORY**

A **nlist()** function appeared in Version 6 AT&T UNIX.