

**NAME**

`pcap_datalink` - get the link-layer header type

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <pcap/pcap.h>
```

```
int pcap_datalink(pcap_t *p);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

`pcap_datalink()` returns the link-layer header type for the live capture or “savefile” specified by *p*.

It must not be called on a pcap descriptor created by `pcap_create(3)` that has not yet been activated by `pcap_activate(3)`.

<https://www.tcpdump.org/linktypes.html> lists the values `pcap_datalink()` can return and describes the packet formats that correspond to those values.

Do **NOT** assume that the packets for a given capture or “savefile” will have any given link-layer header type, such as **DLT\_EN10MB** for Ethernet. For example, the "any" device on Linux will have a link-layer header type of **DLT\_LINUX\_SLL** or **DLT\_LINUX\_SLL2** even if all devices on the system at the time the "any" device is opened have some other data link type, such as **DLT\_EN10MB** for Ethernet.

**RETURN VALUE**

`pcap_datalink()` returns the link-layer header type on success and **PCAP\_ERROR\_NOT\_ACTIVATED** if called on a capture handle that has been created but not activated.

**SEE ALSO**

`pcap(3)`, `pcap-linktype(7)`