

NAME

wait3, wait4 – wait for process to change state, BSD style

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/time.h>
#include <sys/resource.h>
#include <sys/wait.h>

pid_t wait3(int *wstatus, int options,
            struct rusage *rusage);

pid_t wait4(pid_t pid, int *wstatus, int options,
            struct rusage *rusage);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature_test_macros\(7\)](#)):

wait3(): Since glibc 2.19: `_DEFAULT_SOURCE || _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500` Glibc 2.19 and earlier: `_BSD_SOURCE || _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500`

wait4(): Since glibc 2.19: `_DEFAULT_SOURCE` Glibc 2.19 and earlier: `_BSD_SOURCE`

DESCRIPTION

These functions are nonstandard; in new programs, the use of [waitpid\(2\)](#) or [waitid\(2\)](#) is preferable.

The **wait3()** and **wait4()** system calls are similar to [waitpid\(2\)](#), but additionally return resource usage information about the child in the structure pointed to by *rusage*.

Other than the use of the *rusage* argument, the following **wait3()** call:

```
wait3(wstatus, options, rusage);
```

is equivalent to:

```
waitpid(-1, wstatus, options);
```

Similarly, the following **wait4()** call:

```
wait4(pid, wstatus, options, rusage);
```

is equivalent to:

```
waitpid(pid, wstatus, options);
```

In other words, **wait3()** waits of any child, while **wait4()** can be used to select a specific child, or children, on which to wait. See [wait\(2\)](#) for further details.

If *rusage* is not NULL, the *struct rusage* to which it points will be filled with accounting information about the child. See [getrusage\(2\)](#) for details.

RETURN VALUE

As for [waitpid\(2\)](#).

ERRORS

As for [waitpid\(2\)](#).

CONFORMING TO

4.3BSD.

SUSv1 included a specification of **wait3()**; SUSv2 included **wait3()**, but marked it LEGACY; SUSv3 removed it.

NOTES

Including `<sys/time.h>` is not required these days, but increases portability. (Indeed, `<sys/resource.h>` defines the *rusage* structure with fields of type *struct timeval* defined in `<sys/time.h>`.)

C library/kernel differences

On Linux, **wait3()** is a library function implemented on top of the **wait4()** system call.

SEE ALSO

[fork\(2\)](#), [getrusage\(2\)](#), [sigaction\(2\)](#), [signal\(2\)](#), [wait\(2\)](#), [signal\(7\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 4.16 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.