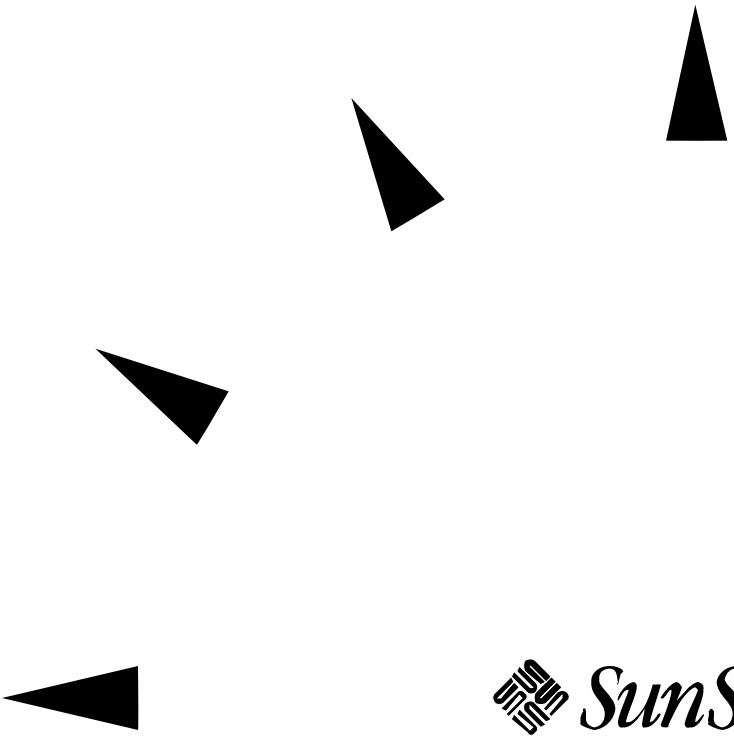
SunOS Reference Manual



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Preface

OVERVIEW

A man page is provided for both the naive user, and sophisticated user who is familiar with the SunOS operating system and is in need of on-line information. A man page is intended to answer concisely the question “What does it do?” The man pages in general comprise a reference manual. They are not intended to be a tutorial.

The following contains a brief description of each section in the man pages and the information it references:

- Section 1 describes, in alphabetical order, commands available with the operating system.

- Section 1M describes, in alphabetical order, commands that are used chiefly for system maintenance and administration purposes.

- Section 2 describes all of the system calls. Most of these calls have one or more error returns. An error condition is indicated by an otherwise impossible returned value.

- Section 3 describes functions found in various libraries, other than those functions that directly invoke UNIX system primitives, which are described in Section 2 of this volume.

- Section 4 outlines the formats of various files. The C structure declarations for the file formats are given where applicable.

- Section 5 contains miscellaneous documentation such as character set tables, etc.

- Section 7 describes various special files that refer to specific hardware peripherals, and device drivers. STREAMS software drivers, modules and the STREAMS-generic set of system calls are also described.

- Section 9 provides reference information needed to write device drivers in the kernel operating systems environment. It describes two device driver interface specifications: the Device Driver Interface (DDI) and the Driver–Kernel Interface (DKI).

- Section 9E describes the DDI/DKI, DDI-only, and DKI-only entry-point routines a developer may include in a device driver.

- Section 9F describes the kernel functions available for use by device drivers.

- Section 9S describes the data structures used by drivers to share information between the driver and the kernel.

Below is a generic format for man pages. The man pages of each manual section generally follow this order, but include only needed headings. For example, if there are no bugs to report, there is no BUGS section. See the intro pages for more information and detail about each section, and **man**(1) for more information about man pages in general.

NAME

This section gives the names of the commands or functions documented, followed by a brief description of what they do.

SYNOPSIS

This section shows the syntax of commands or functions. When a command or file does not exist in the standard path, its full pathname is shown. Literal characters (commands and options) are in **bold** font and variables (arguments, parameters and substitution characters) are in *italic* font. Options and arguments are alphabetized, with single letter arguments first, and options with arguments next, unless a different argument order is required.

The following special characters are used in this section:

[ ] The option or argument enclosed in these brackets is optional. If the brackets are omitted, the argument *must* be specified.

... Ellipses. Several values may be provided for the previous argument, or the previous argument can be specified multiple times, for example, '*filename* ...'.

| Separator. Only one of the arguments separated by this character can be specified at time.

PROTOCOL

This section occurs only in subsection 3R to indicate the protocol description file. The protocol specification pathname is always listed in **bold** font.

AVAILABILITY

This section briefly states any limitations on the availabilty of the command. These limitations could be hardware or software specific.

A specification of a class of hardware platform, such as **x86** or **SPARC**, denotes that the command or interface is applicable for the hardware platform specified.

In Section 1 and Section 1M, **AVAILABILITY** indicates which package contains the command being described on the manual page. In order to use the command, the specified package must have been installed with the operating system. If the package was not installed, see **pkgadd**(1) for information on how to upgrade.

MT-LEVEL

This section lists the **MT-LEVEL** of the library functions described in the Section 3 manual pages. The **MT-LEVEL** defines the libraries' ability to support threads. See **Intro**(3) for more information.

DESCRIPTION

This section defines the functionality and behavior of the service. Thus it describes concisely what the command does. It does not discuss OPTIONS or cite EXAMPLES. Interactive commands, subcommands, requests, macros, functions and such, are described under USAGE.

IOCTLS

This section appears on pages in Section 7 only. Only the device class which supplies appropriate parameters to the **ioctls**(2) system call is called **ioctls** and generates its own heading. IOCTLS for a specific device are listed alphabetically (on the man page for that specific device). IOCTLS are used for a particular class of devices all which have an **io** ending, such as **mtio**(7).

OPTIONS

This lists the command options with a concise summary of what each option does. The options are listed literally and in the order they appear in the SYNOPSIS section. Possible arguments to options are discussed under the option, and where appropriate, default values are supplied.

RETURN VALUES

If the man page documents functions that return values, this section lists these values and describes the conditions under which they are returned. If a function can return only constant values, such as 0 or –1, these values are listed in tagged paragraphs. Otherwise, a single paragraph describes the return values of each function. Functions declared as **void** do not return values, so they are not discussed in RETURN VALUES.

ERRORS

On failure, most functions place an error code in the global variable **errno** indicating why they failed. This section lists alphabetically all error codes a function can generate and describes the conditions that cause each error. When more than one condition can cause the same error, each condition is described in a separate paragraph under the error code.

USAGE

This section is provided as a *guidance* on use. This section lists special rules, features and commands that require in-depth explanations. The subsections listed below are used to explain built-in functionality:

Commands
Modifiers
Variables
Expressions
Input Grammar

EXAMPLES

This section provides examples of usage or of how to use a command or function. Wherever possible a complete example including command line entry and machine response is shown. Whenever an example is given, the prompt is shown as

example%

or if the user must be super-user,

example#

Examples are followed by explanations, variable substitution rules, or returned values. Most examples illustrate concepts from the SYNOPSIS, DESCRIPTION, OPTIONS and USAGE sections.

ENVIRONMENT

This section lists any environment variables that the command or function affects, followed by a brief description of the effect.

FILES

This section lists all filenames referred to by the man page, files of interest, and files created or required by commands. Each is followed by a descriptive summary or explanation.

SEE ALSO

This section lists references to other man pages, in-house documentation and outside publications.

DIAGNOSTICS

This section lists diagnostic messages with a brief explanation of the condition causing the error. Messages appear in **bold** font with the exception of variables, which are in *italic* font.

WARNINGS

This section lists warnings about special conditions which could seriously affect your working conditions — this is not a list of diagnostics.

NOTES

This section lists additional information that does not belong anywhere else on the page. It takes the form of an *aside* to the user, covering points of special interest. Critical information is never covered here.

BUGS

This section describes known bugs and wherever possible suggests workarounds.

NAME

Intro, intro – introduction to device driver interfaces

DESCRIPTION

Section 9 provides reference information needed to write device drivers for Solaris 2.x. It describes the interfaces provided by the Device Driver Interface Driver-Kernel Interface (DDI / DKI). Drivers that conform to this specification are more likely to work in future releases and may be portable to other environments.

Porting

Software is usually considered portable if it can be adapted to run in a different environment more cheaply than it can be rewritten. The new environment may include a different processor, operating system, and even the language in which the program is written, if a language translator is available. Likewise the new environment might include multiple processors. More often, however, software is ported between environments that share an operating system, processor, and source language. The source code is modified to accommodate the differences in compilers or processors or releases of the operating system.

In the past, device drivers did not port easily for one or more of the following reasons:

- To enhance functionality, members had been added to kernel data structures accessed by drivers, or the sizes of existing members had been redefined.
- The calling or return syntax of kernel functions had changed.
- Driver developers did not use existing kernel functions where available, or relied on undocumented side effects that were not maintained in the next release.
- Architecture-specific code had been scattered throughout the driver when it could have been isolated.

Operating systems are periodically reissued to customers as a way to improve performance, fix bugs, and add new features. This is probably the most common threat to compatibility encountered by developers responsible for maintaining software. Another common problem is upgrading hardware. As new hardware is developed, customers occasionally decide to upgrade to faster, more capable computers of the same family. Although they may run the same operating system as those being replaced, architecture-specific code may prevent the software from porting.

Scope of Interfaces

Although application programs have all of the porting problems mentioned, developers attempting to port device drivers have special challenges. Before describing the DDI / DKI, it is necessary to understand the position of device drivers in operating systems.

Device drivers are kernel modules that control data transferred to and received from peripheral devices but are developed independently from the rest of the kernel. If the goal of achieving complete freedom in modifying the kernel is to be reconciled with the goal of binary compatibility with existing drivers, the interaction between drivers and the kernel must be rigorously regulated. This driver / kernel service interface is the most important of the three distinguishable interfaces for a driver, summarized as follows:

- Driver–Kernel. I / O System calls result in calls to driver entry point routines. These

make up the kernel-to-driver part of the service interface, described in Section 9E. Drivers may call any of the functions described in Section 9F. These are the driver-to-kernel part of the interface.

- Driver–Hardware. All drivers (except software drivers) must include code for interrupt handling, and may also perform direct memory access (DMA). These and other hardware-specific interactions make up the driver/hardware interface.
- Driver–Boot/Configuration Software. The interaction between the driver and the boot and configuration software is the third interface affecting drivers.

Scope of the DDI/DKI

The primary goal of the DDI/DKI is to facilitate both source and binary portability across successive releases of the operating systems on a particular machine. In addition, it promotes source portability across implementations of UNIX on different machines, and applies only to implementations based on System V Release 4. The DDI/DKI consists of several sections:

- DDI/DKI Architecture Independent - These interfaces are supported on all implementations of System V Release 4, and will be supported in future releases of System V.
- DKI-only - These interfaces are part of System V Release 4, and may not be supported in future releases of System V. There are only two interfaces in this class, **segmap**(9E) and **hat_getkpfnum**(9F)**.**
- Solaris DDI - These interfaces specific to Solaris, and will be supported in future releases of Solaris 2.x.
- Solaris SPARC specific DDI - These interfaces are specific to the SPARC processor, and may not be available on other processors supported by Solaris.
- Solaris x86 specific DDI - These interfaces are specific to the x86 processor, and may not be available on other processors supported by Solaris.

To achieve the goal of source and binary compatibility, the functions, routines, and structures specified in the DDI/DKI must be used according to these rules.

- Drivers cannot access system state structures (for example, **u** and **sysinfo**) directly.
- For structures external to the driver that may be accessed directly, only the utility functions provided in Section 9F should be used. More generally, these functions should be used wherever possible.
- The headers **<sys/ddi.h>** and **<sys/sunddi.h>** must be the last header files included by the driver.

Audience

Section 9 is for software engineers responsible for creating, modifying, or maintaining drivers that run on this operating system and beyond. It assumes that the reader is familiar with system internals and the C Programming Language.

How to Use Section 9

Section 9 is divided into three subsections:

9E Driver Entry Points – contains reference pages for all driver entry point routines.

9F Kernel Functions – contains reference pages for all driver support routines.

9S Data Structures – contains reference pages for driver-related structures.

SEE ALSO **Intro**(9E), **Intro**(9F), **Intro**(9S)

NOTES SunSoft's implementation of the DDI / DKI was designed to provide binary compatibility for third-party device drivers across currently supported hardware platforms across minor releases of the operating system.

However, unforeseen technical issues may force changes to the binary interface of the DDI / DKI. We cannot therefore promise or in any way assure that DDI / DKI-compliant device drivers will continue to operate correctly on future releases.

Furthermore, future releases may contain additions to the DDI / DKI to support future platforms. At that time device drivers wishing to operate across the new set of supported platforms may require these additions.

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