

**NAME**

`chdir`, `fchdir` – change working directory

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int chdir(const char *path);
int fchdir(int fd);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see **feature\_test\_macros(7)**):

```
fchdir():
    _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500
    || /* Since glibc 2.12: */ _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L
    || /* Glibc up to and including 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE
```

**DESCRIPTION**

**chdir()** changes the current working directory of the calling process to the directory specified in *path*.

**fchdir()** is identical to **chdir()**; the only difference is that the directory is given as an open file descriptor.

**RETURN VALUE**

On success, zero is returned. On error, `-1` is returned, and *errno* is set appropriately.

**ERRORS**

Depending on the filesystem, other errors can be returned. The more general errors for **chdir()** are listed below:

**EACCES**

Search permission is denied for one of the components of *path*. (See also **path\_resolution(7)**.)

**EFAULT**

*path* points outside your accessible address space.

**EIO** An I/O error occurred.

**ELOOP**

Too many symbolic links were encountered in resolving *path*.

**ENAMETOOLONG**

*path* is too long.

**ENOENT**

The directory specified in *path* does not exist.

**ENOMEM**

Insufficient kernel memory was available.

**ENOTDIR**

A component of *path* is not a directory.

The general errors for **fchdir()** are listed below:

**EACCES**

Search permission was denied on the directory open on *fd*.

**EBADF**

*fd* is not a valid file descriptor.

**CONFORMING TO**

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, SVr4, 4.4BSD.

**NOTES**

The current working directory is the starting point for interpreting relative pathnames (those not starting with '/').

A child process created via **fork(2)** inherits its parent's current working directory. The current working



directory is left unchanged by **execve**(2).

**SEE ALSO**

**chroot**(2), **getcwd**(3), **path\_resolution**(7)

**COLOPHON**

This page is part of release 4.09 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/>.

