

NAME

`attr_list`, `attr_listf` – list the names of the user attributes of a filesystem object

C SYNOPSIS

```
#include <attr/attributes.h>
```

```
int attr_list (const char *path, char *buffer,
               const int buffersize, int flags,
               attrlist_cursor_t *cursor);
```

```
int attr_listf (int fd, char *buffer,
                const int buffersize, int flags,
                attrlist_cursor_t *cursor);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `attr_list` and `attr_listf` functions provide a way to list the existing attributes of a filesystem object.

Path points to a path name for a filesystem object, and *fd* refers to the file descriptor associated with a file. The *buffer* will be filled with a structure describing at least a portion of the attributes associated with the given filesystem object. *Buffer* will be overwritten with an `attrlist_t` structure containing a list of the attributes associated with that filesystem object, up to a maximum of *buffersize* bytes. The *buffer* must be sufficiently large to hold the appropriate data structures plus at least one maximally sized attribute name, but cannot be more than `ATTR_MAX_VALUELEN` (currently 64KB) bytes in length.

The contents of an `attrlist_t` structure include the following members:

```
int32_t al_count; /* number of entries in attrlist */
int32_t al_more; /* T/F: more attrs (do syscall again) */
int32_t al_offset[1]; /* byte offsets of attrs [var-sized] */
```

The *al_count* field shows the number of attributes represented in this buffer, which is also the number of elements in the *al_offset* array. The *al_more* field will be non-zero if another `attr_list` call would result in more attributes. The *al_offset* array contains the byte offset within the *buffer* of the structure describing each of the attributes, an `attrlist_ent_t` structure. The `ATTR_ENTRY(buffer, index)` macro will help with decoding the list. It takes a pointer to the *buffer* and an *index* into the *al_offset* array and returns a pointer to the corresponding `attrlist_ent_t` structure.

The contents of an `attrlist_ent_t` structure include the following members:

```
uint32_t a_valuelen; /* number bytes in value of attr */
char a_name[]; /* attr name (NULL terminated) */
```

The *a_valuelen* field shows the size in bytes of the value associated with the attribute whose name is stored in the *a_name* field. The name is a NULL terminated string.

Note that the value of the attribute cannot be obtained through this interface, the `attr_get` call should be used to get the value. The `attr_list` interface tells the calling process how large of a buffer it must have in order to get the attribute's value.

The *flags* argument can contain the following symbols bitwise OR'ed together:

`ATTR_ROOT`

List the attributes that are in the **root** address space, not in the **user** address space. (limited to use by super-user only)

`ATTR_DONTFOLLOW`

Do not follow symbolic links when resolving a *path* on an `attr_list` function call. The default is to follow symbolic links.

The *cursor* argument is a pointer to an opaque data structure that the kernel uses to track the calling process's position in the attribute list. The only valid operations on a *cursor* are to pass it into an `attr_list` function call or to zero it out. It should be zero'ed out before the first `attr_list` call. Note that multi-threaded applications may keep more than one *cursor* in order to serve multiple contexts, ie: the `attr_list`

call is "thread-safe".

attr_list will fail if one or more of the following are true:

[ENOENT]	The named file does not exist.
[EPERM]	The effective user ID does not match the owner of the file and the effective user ID is not super-user.
[ENOTDIR]	A component of the path prefix is not a directory.
[EACCES]	Search permission is denied on a component of the path prefix.
[EINVAL]	A bit was set in the <i>flag</i> argument that is not defined for this system call, or the buffer was too small or too large.
[EFAULT]	Either <i>Path</i> or <i>buffer</i> points outside the allocated address space of the process, or <i>buffer</i> or <i>bufsize</i> are not 32bit aligned.
[ELOOP]	A path name lookup involved too many symbolic links.
[ENAMETOOLONG]	The length of <i>path</i> exceeds { <i>MAXPATHLEN</i> }, or a pathname component is longer than { <i>MAXNAMELEN</i> }.
[ENOATTR]	<i>attribute</i> does not exist for this file.

attr_listf will fail if:

[EINVAL]	A bit was set in the <i>flag</i> argument that is not defined for this system call, or <i>fd</i> refers to a socket, not a file, or the buffer was too small or too large.
[EFAULT]	Either <i>Path</i> or <i>buffer</i> points outside the allocated address space of the process, or <i>buffer</i> or <i>bufsize</i> are not 32bit aligned.
[EBADF]	<i>Fd</i> does not refer to a valid descriptor.

DIAGNOSTICS

Upon successful completion, a value of 0 is returned. Otherwise, a value of -1 is returned and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

SEE ALSO

attr(1), **attr_multi**(3), **attr_remove**(3), **attr_set**(3)