NAME

inetd – Internet services daemon

SYNOPSIS

inetd [**–d**] [**–s**] [**–t**] [**–r** *count interval*] [*configuration-file*]

AVAILABILITY

SUNWcsu

DESCRIPTION

inetd is the server process for the Internet standard services. It is usually started up at system boot time. The *configuration-file* lists the services that **inetd** is to provide. If no *configuration-file* is given on the command line, **inetd** reads its configuration information from the file **/etc/inetd.conf**. See **inetd.conf**(4) for more information on the format of this file. **inetd** listens for service requests on the TCP or UDP ports associated with each of the service listed in the configuration file. When a request arrives, **inetd** executes the server program associated with the service.

A service can be configured to be ''single-threaded'', in which case **inetd** waits for the server process to exit before starting a second server process. RPC services can also be started by **inetd**.

inetd provides a number of simple Internet services internally. These include **echo**, **discard**, **chargen** (character generator), **daytime** (human-readable time), and **time** (machine-readable time, in the form of the number of seconds since midnight, January 1, 1900).

inetd rereads its configuration file once when it is started and again whenever it receives a hangup signal, **SIGHUP**. New services can be activated, and existing services deleted or modified by editing the configuration file, then sending **inetd** a **SIGHUP** signal.

OPTIONS

–d Runs **inetd** in the foreground and enables debugging output.

–s Allows you to run **inetd** ''stand-alone,'' outside the Service Access Facility (SAF). If the –**s** option is omitted, **inetd** will attempt to contact the service access controller (SAC) and will exit if SAC is not already running. See **sac**(1M)**.**

–t Instructs **inetd** to trace the incoming connections for all of its TCP services. It does this by logging the client's IP address and TCP port number, along with the name of the service, using the **syslog**(3) facility. UDP services can not be traced. When tracing is enabled, **inetd** uses the syslog facility code ''daemon'' and ''notice'' priority level.

–r Allows **inetd** to detect and then suspend ''broken'' servers. The –**r** flag has the form:

–**r** *count interval*

count and *interval* are decimal numbers that represent the maximum *count* of invocations per *interval* of seconds a service may be started before the service is considered ''broken''.

Once considered ''broken'', a server is suspended for ten minutes. After ten minutes, **inetd** again enables service, hoping the server behaves correctly.

If the **−r** flag is not specified, **inetd** behaves as though **−r40 60** was specified.

OPERANDS

configuration-file
Lists the services **inetd** is to provide.

EXIT STATUS

inetd does not return an Exit Status.

SEE ALSO

in.ftpd(1M), **in.rexecd**(1M), **in.rshd**(1M), **in.tftpd**(1M), **sac**(1M), **inetd.conf**(4)

Postel, Jon, ''Echo Protocol,'' RFC 862, Network Information Center, SRI International, Menlo Park, CA, May 1983.

Postel, Jon, ''Discard Protocol,'' RFC 863, Network Information Center, SRI International, Menlo Park, CA, May 1983.

Postel, Jon, ''Character Generator Protocol,'' RFC 864, Network Information Center, SRI International, Menlo Park, CA, May 1983.

Postel, Jon, ''Daytime Protocol,'' RFC 867, Network Information Center, SRI International, Menlo Park, CA, May 1983.

Postel, Jon, and Ken Harrenstien, ''Time Protocol,'' RFC 868, Network Information Center, SRI International, Menlo Park, CA, May 1983.

WARNINGS

Do not configure **udp** services as **nowait**. This will cause a race condition where the **inetd** program selects on the socket and the server program reads from the socket. Many server programs will be forked and performance will be severely compromised.

NOTES

For RPC services, **inetd** listens on all the transports (not only **tcp** and **udp**) as specified for each service in the **inetd.conf**(4) file.