

switch_root(8) — Linux manual page

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 SWITCH_ROOT(8)

System Administration

SWITCH_ROOT(8)**NAME** [top](#)

`switch_root` - switch to another filesystem as the root of the mount tree

SYNOPSIS [top](#)

```
switch_root [-hV]
```

```
switch_root newroot init [arg...]
```

DESCRIPTION [top](#)

`switch_root` moves already mounted */proc*, */dev*, */sys* and */run* to *newroot* and makes *newroot* the new root filesystem and starts *init* process.

WARNING: `switch_root` removes recursively all files and directories on the current root filesystem.

OPTIONS [top](#)

-h, --help
Display help text and exit.

-V, --version
Display version and exit.

EXIT STATUS [top](#)

`switch_root` returns 1 on failure, it never returns on success.

NOTES [top](#)

switch_root will fail to function if *newroot* is not the root of a mount. If you want to switch root into a directory that does not meet this requirement then you can first use a bind-mounting trick to turn any directory into a mount point:

```
mount --bind $DIR $DIR
```

AUTHORS [top](#)

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SEE ALSO [top](#)

[chroot\(2\)](#), [init\(8\)](#), [mkinitrd\(8\)](#), [mount\(8\)](#)

REPORTING BUGS [top](#)

For bug reports, use the issue tracker
<<https://github.com/util-linux/util-linux/issues>>.

AVAILABILITY [top](#)

The **switch_root** command is part of the util-linux package which can be downloaded from Linux Kernel Archive <<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>>. This page is part of the *util-linux* (a random collection of Linux utilities) project. Information about the project can be found at (<https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/utils/util-linux/>). If you have a bug report for this manual page, send it to util-linux@vger.kernel.org. This page was obtained from the project's upstream Git repository ([git://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/utils/util-linux/util-linux.git](https://git.kernel.org/pub/scm/utils/util-linux/util-linux.git)) on 2026-05-24. (At that time, the date of the most recent commit that was found in the repository was 2026-05-20.) If you discover any rendering problems in this HTML version of the page, or you believe there is a better or more up-to-date source for the page, or you have corrections or improvements to the information in this COLOPHON (which is *not* part of the original manual page), send a mail to man-pages@man7.org

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HTML rendering created 2026-05-30 by [Michael Kerrisk](#), author of *The Linux Programming Interface*.

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