

NAME

`perror`, `sys_errlist`, `sys_nerr`, `errno` — system error messages

SYNOPSIS

```
perror (s)  
char *s;  
int sys_nerr;  
char *sys_errlist[];  
int errno;
```

DESCRIPTION

Perror produces a short error message on the standard error file describing the last error encountered during a call to the system from a C program. First the argument string *s* is printed, then a colon, then the message and a new-line. Most usefully, the argument string is the name of the program which incurred the error. The error number is taken from the external variable *errno*, which is set when errors occur but not cleared when non-erroneous calls are made.

To simplify variant formatting of messages, the vector of message strings *sys_errlist* is provided; *errno* can be used as an index in this table to get the message string without the new-line. *sys_nerr* is the largest message number provided for in the table; it should be checked because new error codes may be added to the system before they are added to the table.

SEE ALSO

`intro(2)`