

**NAME**

pam\_start, pam\_end – activating Linux-PAM

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <security/pam_appl.h>
```

```
int pam_start(const char *service, const char *user, const struct pam_conv *conv, pam_handle_t  
**pamh_p);
```

```
int pam_end(pam_handle_t *pamh, int pam_status);
```

**DESCRIPTION****pam\_start**

Initialize the *Linux-PAM* library. Identifying the application with a particular *service* name. The *username* can take the value *NULL*, if not known at the time the interface is initialized. The conversation structure is passed to the library via the *conv* argument. (For a complete description of this and other structures the reader is directed to the more verbose *Linux-PAM* application developers' guide). Upon successful initialization, an opaque pointer-handle for future access to the library is returned through the contents of the *pamh\_p* pointer.

**pam\_end**

Terminate the **Linux-PAM** library. The service application associated with the *pamh* handle, is terminated. The argument, *pam\_status*, passes the value most recently returned to the application from the library; it indicates the manner in which the library should be shutdown. Besides carrying a return value, this argument may be logically OR'd with *PAM\_DATA\_SILENT* to indicate that the module should not treat the call too seriously. It is generally used to indicate that the current closing of the library is in a *fork(2)*ed process, and that the parent will take care of cleaning up things that exist outside of the current process space (files etc.).

**RETURN VALUE****pam\_start****pam\_end**

On success, **PAM\_SUCCESS** is returned

**ERRORS**

May be translated to text with **pam\_strerror(3)**.

**CONFORMING TO**

DCE-RFC 86.0, October 1995.

Note, the **PAM\_DATA\_SILENT** flag is pending acceptance with the DCE (as of 1996/12/4).

**BUGS**

None known.

**SEE ALSO**

**fork(2)**, **pam\_authenticate(3)**, **pam\_acct\_mgmt(3)**, **pam\_open\_session(3)**, and **pam\_chauthtok(3)**.

Also, see the three **Linux-PAM** Guides, for **System administrators**, **module developers**, and **application developers**.