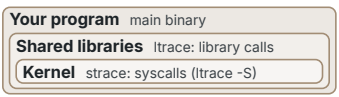
ltrace Library call tracer

CONCEPTS

ltrace shows calls into shared libraries (libc, libssl...) and prints their arguments. Use strace for kernel syscalls only.



Only calls through the PLT are seen. Statically linked programs and calls inside one library are invisible unless you use -x.

Output goes to stderr, so redirect with 2> or use -o. Without -f a forking program is traced only in the parent.

RUN AND ATTACH

`ltrace <cmd> [args]`
Trace a new command

`ltrace -p <pid>`
Attach to a running process

`ltrace -f <cmd>`
Follow forks and clones

`ltrace -p <pid> -p <pid2>`
Attach to several processes

`ltrace -o <file> <cmd>`
Write the trace to a file

`ltrace -h / -V`
Show help / version

FILTER CALLS

`ltrace -e <func> <cmd>`
Trace only this function

`ltrace -e <f1>+<f2> <cmd>`
Trace several functions

`ltrace -e @libc.so* <cmd>`
Only calls into libc

`ltrace -e <func>@<lib> <cmd>`
Function from a given library

`ltrace -e '/^str' <cmd>`
Regex on function names

`ltrace -e -<func> <cmd>`
Trace everything except this

`ltrace -l <lib> <cmd>`
Calls into libraries matching a pattern

`ltrace -S <cmd>`
Show system calls as well

OUTPUT FORMAT

`ltrace -s <n> <cmd>`
Longest printed string (default 32)

`ltrace -C <cmd>`
Demangle C++ names

TIMING AND STATISTICS

`ltrace -c <cmd>`
Count calls and time per function

`ltrace -T <cmd>`
Time spent inside each call

`ltrace -r <cmd>`
Relative timestamp per line

`ltrace -t <cmd>`
Time of day per line

`ltrace -c -S <cmd>`
Summary including system calls