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Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'BN_CTX_end.3ossl' command

\$ man BN_CTX_end.3ossl

BN_CTX_START(3ossl) OpenSSL BN_CTX_START(3ossl)

NAME

BN_CTX_start, BN_CTX_get, BN_CTX_end - use temporary BIGNUM variables

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <openssl/bn.h>
```

```
void BN_CTX_start(BN_CTX *ctx);
```

```
BIGNUM *BN_CTX_get(BN_CTX *ctx);
```

```
void BN_CTX_end(BN_CTX *ctx);
```

DESCRIPTION

These functions are used to obtain temporary BIGNUM variables from a BN_CTX (which can be created by using BN_CTX_new(3)) in order to save the overhead of repeatedly creating and freeing BIGNUMs in functions that are called from inside a loop.

A function must call BN_CTX_start() first. Then, BN_CTX_get() may be called repeatedly to obtain temporary BIGNUMs. All BN_CTX_get() calls must be made before calling any other functions that use the ctx as an

argument.

Finally, `BN_CTX_end()` must be called before returning from the function. If `ctx` is `NULL`, nothing is done. When `BN_CTX_end()` is called, the `BIGNUM` pointers obtained from `BN_CTX_get()` become invalid.

RETURN VALUES

`BN_CTX_start()` and `BN_CTX_end()` return no values.

`BN_CTX_get()` returns a pointer to the `BIGNUM`, or `NULL` on error. Once `BN_CTX_get()` has failed, the subsequent calls will return `NULL` as well, so it is sufficient to check the return value of the last `BN_CTX_get()` call. In case of an error, an error code is set, which can be obtained by `ERR_get_error(3)`.

SEE ALSO

`BN_CTX_new(3)`

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