



## ***Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'X509\_free.3ossl' command***

***\$ man X509\_free.3ossl***

X509\_NEW(3ossl)                      OpenSSL                      X509\_NEW(3ossl)

### NAME

X509\_new, X509\_new\_ex, X509\_free, X509\_up\_ref, X509\_chain\_up\_ref - X509 certificate ASN1 allocation functions

### SYNOPSIS

```
#include <openssl/x509.h>

X509 *X509_new(void);
X509 *X509_new_ex(OSSL_LIB_CTX *libctx, const char *propq);
void X509_free(X509 *a);
int X509_up_ref(X509 *a);
STACK_OF(X509) *X509_chain_up_ref(STACK_OF(X509) *x);
```

### DESCRIPTION

The X509 ASN1 allocation routines, allocate and free an X509 structure, which represents an X509 certificate.

X509\_new\_ex() allocates and initializes a X509 structure with a library context of libctx, property query of propq and a reference count of 1.

Many X509 functions such as X509\_check\_purpose(), and X509\_verify() use this library context to select which providers supply the fetched

algorithms (SHA1 is used internally). This created X509 object can then be used when loading binary data using `d2i_X509()`.

`X509_new()` is similar to `X509_new_ex()` but sets the library context and property query to NULL. This results in the default (NULL) library context being used for any X509 operations requiring algorithm fetches.

`X509_free()` decrements the reference count of X509 structure `a` and frees it up if the reference count is zero. If `a` is NULL nothing is done.

`X509_up_ref()` increments the reference count of `a`.

`X509_chain_up_ref()` increases the reference count of all certificates in chain `x` and returns a copy of the stack, or an empty stack if `a` is NULL.

## NOTES

The function `X509_up_ref()` is useful if a certificate structure is being used by several different operations each of which will free it up after use: this avoids the need to duplicate the entire certificate structure.

The function `X509_chain_up_ref()` doesn't just up the reference count of each certificate. It also returns a copy of the stack, using `sk_X509_dup()`, but it serves a similar purpose: the returned chain persists after the original has been freed.

## RETURN VALUES

If the allocation fails, `X509_new()` returns NULL and sets an error code that can be obtained by `ERR_get_error(3)`. Otherwise it returns a pointer to the newly allocated structure.

X509\_up\_ref() returns 1 for success and 0 for failure.

X509\_chain\_up\_ref() returns a copy of the stack or NULL if an error occurred.

## SEE ALSO

d2i\_X509(3), ERR\_get\_error(3), X509\_CRL\_get0\_by\_serial(3),  
X509\_get0\_signature(3), X509\_get\_ext\_d2i(3),  
X509\_get\_extension\_flags(3), X509\_get\_pubkey(3),  
X509\_get\_subject\_name(3), X509\_get\_version(3),  
X509\_NAME\_add\_entry\_by\_txt(3), X509\_NAME\_ENTRY\_get\_object(3),  
X509\_NAME\_get\_index\_by\_NID(3), X509\_NAME\_print\_ex(3), X509\_sign(3),  
X509V3\_get\_d2i(3), X509\_verify\_cert(3)

## HISTORY

The function X509\_new\_ex() was added in OpenSSL 3.0.

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