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Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'errno.3p' command

\$ man errno.3p

ERRNO(3P) POSIX Programmer's Manual ERRNO(3P)

PROLOG

This manual page is part of the POSIX Programmer's Manual. The Linux implementation of this interface may differ (consult the corresponding Linux manual page for details of Linux behavior), or the interface may not be implemented on Linux.

NAME

errno ? error return value

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <errno.h>
```

DESCRIPTION

The lvalue `errno` is used by many functions to return error values. Many functions provide an error number in `errno`, which has type `int` and is defined in `<errno.h>`. The value of `errno` shall be defined only after a call to a function for which it is explicitly stated to be set and until it is changed by the next function call or if the application assigns it a value. The value of `errno` should only be examined when it is indicated to be valid by a function's return value. Applications shall obtain the definition of `errno` by the inclusion of `<errno.h>`. No function in this volume of POSIX.1-2017 shall set `errno` to 0. The setting of `errno` after a successful call to a function is unspecified unless the description of that function specifies that `errno` shall not be modified.

It is unspecified whether `errno` is a macro or an identifier declared with external linkage. If a macro definition is suppressed in order to access an actual object, or a program defines an identifier with the name `errno`, the behavior is undefined.

The symbolic values stored in `errno` are documented in the ERRORS sections on all relevant pages.

RETURN VALUE

None.

ERRORS

None.

The following sections are informative.

EXAMPLES

None.

APPLICATION USAGE

Previously both POSIX and X/Open documents were more restrictive than the ISO C standard in that they required `errno` to be defined as an external variable, whereas the ISO C standard required only that `errno` be defined as a modifiable lvalue with type `int`.

An application that needs to examine the value of `errno` to determine the error should set it to 0 before a function call, then inspect it before a subsequent function call.

RATIONALE

None.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

SEE ALSO

Section 2.3, Error Numbers

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1-2017, `<errno.h>`

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