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

$ man tempnam.3p

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

tempnam ? create a name for a temporary file

SYNOPSIS

#include <stdio.h>

char *tempnam(const char *dir, const char *pfx);

DESCRIPTION

The tempnam() function shall generate a pathname that may be used for a temporary file.

The tempnam() function allows the user to control the choice of a di? rectory. The dir argument points to the name of the directory in which the file is to be created. If dir is a null pointer or points to a string which is not a name for an appropriate directory, the path pre? fix defined as P_tmpdir in the <stdio.h> header shall be used. If that directory is not accessible, an implementation-defined directory may be used.

Many applications prefer their temporary files to have certain initial letter sequences in their names. The pfx argument should be used for

this. This argument may be a null pointer or point to a string of up to five bytes to be used as the beginning of the filename.

Some implementations of tempnam() may use tmpnam() internally. On such implementations, if called more than {TMP_MAX} times in a single process, the behavior is implementation-defined.

RETURN VALUE

Upon successful completion, tempnam() shall allocate space for a string, put the generated pathname in that space, and return a pointer to it. The pointer shall be suitable for use in a subsequent call to free(). Otherwise, it shall return a null pointer and set errno to in? dicate the error.

ERRORS

The tempnam() function shall fail if:

ENOMEM Insufficient storage space is available.

The following sections are informative.

EXAMPLES

Generating a Pathname

The following example generates a pathname for a temporary file in di? rectory /tmp, with the prefix file. After the pathname has been cre? ated, the call to free() deallocates the space used to store the path? name.

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
...
const char *directory = "/tmp";
const char *fileprefix = "file";
char *file;
file = tempnam(directory, fileprefix);
free(file);
```

APPLICATION USAGE

This function only creates pathnames. It is the application's responsi? bility to create and remove the files. Between the time a pathname is created and the file is opened, it is possible for some other process

to create a file with the same name. Applications may find tmpfile() more useful.

Applications should use the tmpfile(), mkdtemp(), or mkstemp() func? tions instead of the obsolescent tempnam() function.

RATIONALE

None.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The tempnam() function may be removed in a future version.

SEE ALSO

fopen(), free(), mkdtemp(), open(), tmpfile(), tmpnam(), unlink()

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1?2017, <stdio.h>

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