



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'alphasort.3'

\$ man alphasort.3

scandir(3) Library Functions Manual scandir(3)

NAME

scandir, scandirat, alphasort, versionsort - scan a directory for matching entries

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <dirent.h>

int scandir(const char *restrict dirp,
            struct dirent ***restrict namelist,
            typeof(int (const struct dirent *)) *filter,
            typeof(int (const struct dirent **, const struct dirent **))
            *compar);

int alphasort(const struct dirent **a, const struct dirent **b);
int versionsort(const struct dirent **a, const struct dirent **b);

#include <fcntl.h>      /* Definition of AT_* constants */
#include <dirent.h>

int scandirat(int dirfd, const char *restrict dirp,
            struct dirent ***restrict namelist,
            typeof(int (const struct dirent *)) *filter,
            typeof(int (const struct dirent **, const struct dirent **))
            *compar);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature_test_macros(7)):

scandir(), alphasort():

```
/* Since glibc 2.10: */ _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L
|| /* glibc <= 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE
```

versionsort():

```
_GNU_SOURCE
```

scandirat():

```
_GNU_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

The `scandir()` function scans the directory `dirp`, calling `filter()` on each directory entry.

Entries for which `filter()` returns nonzero are stored in strings allocated via `malloc(3)`, sorted using `qsort(3)` with the comparison function `compar()`, and collected in array `namelist` which is allocated via `malloc(3)`. If `filter` is `NULL`, all entries are selected.

The `alphasort()` and `versionsort()` functions can be used as the comparison function `compar()`.

The former sorts directory entries using `strcoll(3)`, the latter using `strverscmp(3)` on the strings `(*a)->d_name` and `(*b)->d_name`.

`scandirat()`

The `scandirat()` function operates in exactly the same way as `scandir()`, except for the differences described here.

If `dirp` is relative, then it is interpreted relative to the directory referred to by the file descriptor `dirfd` (rather than relative to the current working directory of the calling process, as is done by `scandir()` for a relative pathname).

If `dirp` is relative and `dirfd` is the special value `AT_FDCWD`, then `dirp` is interpreted relative to the current working directory of the calling process (like `scandir()`).

If `dirp` is absolute, then `dirfd` is ignored.

See `openat(2)` for an explanation of the need for `scandirat()`.

RETURN VALUE

The `scandir()` function returns the number of directory entries selected. On error, `-1` is returned, with `errno` set to indicate the error.

The `alphasort()` and `versionsort()` functions return an integer less than, equal to, or greater than zero if the first argument is considered to be respectively less than, equal to, or greater than the second.

ERRORS

`EBADF` (`scandirat()`) `dirp` is relative but `dirfd` is neither `AT_FDCWD` nor a valid file descriptor.

ENOMEM Insufficient memory to complete the operation.

The path in dirp is not a directory.

(scandirat()) dirp is relative and dirfd is a file descriptor referring to a file other than a directory.

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see `attributes(7)`.

[illegible]

Interface	Attribute	Value	
?	?	?	?

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|                          |                           |   |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| ? scandir(), scandirat() | ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe | ? |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---|

[illegible]

? alphasort(), versionsort()                      ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe locale ?

[illegible]

alphasort()

## scandir()

POSIX.1-2008.

versionsort()

scandirat()

GNU.

alphasort()

## scandir()

4.3BSD, POSIX.1-2008.

versionsort()

glibc 2.1.

scandirat()

glibc 2.15.

Since glibc 2.1, `alphasort()` calls `strcoll(3)`; earlier it used `strcmp(3)`.

Before glibc 2.10, the two arguments of `alphasort()` and `versionsort()` were typed as `const void *`. When `alphasort()` was standardized in POSIX.1-2008, the argument type was specified as the type-safe `const struct dirent **`, and glibc 2.10 changed the definition of `alpha?`sort() (and the nonstandard `versionsort()`) to match the standard.

## EXAMPLES

The program below prints a list of the files in the current directory in reverse order.

Program source

```
#define _DEFAULT_SOURCE

#include <dirent.h>

#include <stdio.h>

#include <stdlib.h>

int

main(void)

{
    struct dirent **namelist;

    int n;

    n = scandir(".", &namelist, NULL, alphasort);

    if (n == -1) {
        perror("scandir");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    while (n-- > 0) {
        printf("%s\n", namelist[n]->d_name);
        free(namelist[n]);
    }

    free(namelist);

    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

## SEE ALSO

`closedir(3)`, `fnmatch(3)`, `opendir(3)`, `readdir(3)`, `rewinddir(3)`, `seekdir(3)`, `strcmp(3)`, `str?`  
`coll(3)`, `strverscmp(3)`, `telldir(3)`