



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

\$ man forkpty.3

openpty(3) Library Functions Manual openpty(3)

NAME

openpty, login_tty, forkpty - terminal utility functions

LIBRARY

System utilities library (libutil, -lutil)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <pty.h>

int openpty(int *amaster, int *aslave, char *name,
            const struct termios *termp,
            const struct winsize *winp);

pid_t forkpty(int *amaster, char *name,
              const struct termios *termp,
              const struct winsize *winp);

#include <utmp.h>

int login_tty(int fd);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `openpty()` function finds an available pseudoterminal and returns file descriptors for the master and slave in `amaster` and `aslave`. If `name` is not `NULL`, the filename of the slave is returned in `name`. If `termp` is not `NULL`, the terminal parameters of the slave will be set to the values in `termp`. If `winp` is not `NULL`, the window size of the slave will be set to the values in `winp`.

The `login_tty()` function prepares for a login on the terminal referred to by the file descriptor `fd` (which may be a real terminal device, or the slave of a pseudoterminal as re?

turned by `openpty()`) by creating a new session, making `fd` the controlling terminal for the calling process, setting `fd` to be the standard input, output, and error streams of the current process, and closing `fd`.

The `forkpty()` function combines `openpty()`, `fork(2)`, and `login_tty()` to create a new process operating in a pseudoterminal. A file descriptor referring to master side of the pseudoterminal is returned in `amaster`. If `name` is not `NULL`, the buffer it points to is used to return the filename of the slave. The `term` and `winp` arguments, if not `NULL`, will determine the terminal attributes and window size of the slave side of the pseudoterminal.

RETURN VALUE

If a call to `openpty()`, `login_tty()`, or `forkpty()` is not successful, -1 is returned and `errno` is set to indicate the error. Otherwise, `openpty()`, `login_tty()`, and the child process of `forkpty()` return 0, and the parent process of `forkpty()` returns the process ID of the child process.

ERRORS

openpty() fails if:

ENOENT There are no available terminals.

login_tty() fails if ioctl(2) fails to set fd to the controlling terminal of the calling process.

forkpty() fails if either openpty() or fork(2) fails.

ATTRIBUTES

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

[illegible]

?	Interface	?	Attribute	?	Value	?
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[illegible]

? forkpty(), openpty()	? Thread safety	? MT-Safe locale	?
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[illegible]

? login_tty() ? Thread safety ? MT-Unsafe race:ttyname ?

[illegible]

STANDARDS

BSD.

HISTORY

The const modifiers were added to the structure pointer arguments of `openpty()` and `forkpty()` in glibc 2.8.

Before glibc 2.0.92, `openpty()` returns file descriptors for a BSD pseudoterminal pair; since glibc 2.0.92, it first attempts to open a UNIX 98 pseudoterminal pair, and falls back to opening a BSD pseudoterminal pair if that fails.

BUGS

Nobody knows how much space should be reserved for `name`. So, calling `openpty()` or `forkpty()` with non-NULL `name` may not be secure.

SEE ALSO

`fork(2)`, `ttname(3)`, `pty(7)`

Linux man-pages 6.17

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`openpty(3)`