



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

\$ man strerror.3

strerror(3) Library Functions Manual strerror(3)

NAME

strerror, strerrorname_np, strerrordesc_np, strerror_r, strerror_l - return string describing error number

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <string.h>

char *strerror(int errnum);

const char *strerrorname_np(int errnum);

const char *strerrordesc_np(int errnum);

int strerror_r(size_t size;
               int errnum, char buf[size], size_t size);
/* XSI-compliant */

char *strerror_r(size_t size;
                int errnum, char buf[size], size_t size);
/* GNU-specific */

char *strerror_l(int errnum, locale_t locale);
```

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

strerrorname_np(), strerrordesc_np():

 _GNU_SOURCE

strerror_r():

 The XSI-compliant version is provided if:

`(_POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200112L) && ! _GNU_SOURCE`

Otherwise, the GNU-specific version is provided.

DESCRIPTION

The `strerror()` function returns a pointer to a string that describes the error code passed in the argument `errnum`, possibly using the `LC_MESSAGES` part of the current locale to select the appropriate language. (For example, if `errnum` is `EINVAL`, the returned description will be "Invalid argument".) This string must not be modified by the application, and the returned pointer will be invalidated on a subsequent call to `strerror()` or `strerror_l()`, or if the thread that obtained the string exits. No other library function, including `perror(3)`, will modify this string.

Like `strerror()`, the `strerrordesc_np()` function returns a pointer to a string that describes the error code passed in the argument `errnum`, with the difference that the returned string is not translated according to the current locale.

The `strerrorname_np()` function returns a pointer to a string containing the name of the error code passed in the argument `errnum`. For example, given `EPERM` as an argument, this function returns a pointer to the string "EPERM". Given 0 as an argument, this function returns a pointer to the string "0".

`strerror_r()`

`strerror_r()` is like `strerror()`, but might use the supplied buffer `buf` instead of allocating one internally. This function is available in two versions: an XSI-compliant version specified in POSIX.1-2001 (available since glibc 2.3.4, but not POSIX-compliant until glibc 2.13), and a GNU-specific version (available since glibc 2.0). The XSI-compliant version is provided with the feature test macros settings shown in the SYNOPSIS; otherwise the GNU-specific version is provided. If no feature test macros are explicitly defined, then (since glibc 2.4) `_POSIX_C_SOURCE` is defined by default with the value 200112L, so that the XSI-compliant version of `strerror_r()` is provided by default.

The XSI-compliant `strerror_r()` is preferred for portable applications. It returns the error string in the user-supplied buffer `buf` of size `size`.

The GNU-specific `strerror_r()` returns a pointer to a string containing the error message. This may be either a pointer to a string that the function stores in `buf`, or a pointer to some (immutable) static string (in which case `buf` is unused). If the function stores a string in `buf`, then at most `size` bytes are stored (the string may be truncated if `size` is too small and `errnum` is unknown). The string always includes a terminating null byte

```
strerror_l()
```

`strerror_l()` is like `strerror()`, but maps `errnum` to a locale-dependent error message in the locale specified by `locale`. The behavior of `strerror_l()` is undefined if `locale` is the special locale object `LC_GLOBAL_LOCALE` or is not a valid locale object handle.

RETURN VALUE

The `strerror()`, `strerror_l()`, and the GNU-specific `strerror_r()` functions return the appropriate error description string, or an "Unknown error nnn" message if the error number is unknown.

On success, `strerrorname_np()` and `strerrordesc_np()` return the appropriate error description string. If `errnum` is an invalid error number, these functions return `NULL`.

The XSI-compliant `strerror_r()` function returns 0 on success. On error, a (positive) error number is returned (since glibc 2.13), or -1 is returned and `errno` is set to indicate the error (before glibc 2.13).

POSIX.1-2001 and POSIX.1-2008 require that a successful call to `strerror()` or `strerror_l()` shall leave `errno` unchanged, and note that, since no function return value is reserved to indicate an error, an application that wishes to check for errors should initialize `errno` to zero before the call, and then check `errno` after the call.

ERRORS

EINVAL The value of `errnum` is not a valid error number.

ERANGE Insufficient storage was supplied to contain the error description string.

ATTRIBUTES

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

[illegible]

?	Interface	?	Attribute	?	Value	?
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[illegible]

? strerror()	? Thread safety	? MT-Safe	?
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[illegible]

? strerrorname_np(), ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe ?

? strerrordesc_np() ? ?

[illegible]

? strerror_r(), ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe ?

? strerror_l() ? ? ?

