



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

\$ man telldir.3

telldir(3) Library Functions Manual telldir(3)

NAME

telldir - return current location in directory stream

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <dirent.h>
```

```
long telldir(DIR *dirp);
```

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

```
telldir():
```

```
  _XOPEN_SOURCE
```

```
  || /* glibc >= 2.19: */ _DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

```
  || /* glibc <= 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

The `telldir()` function returns the current location associated with the directory stream `dirp`.

RETURN VALUE

On success, the `telldir()` function returns the current location in the directory stream. On error, `-1` is returned, and `errno` is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS

`EBADF` Invalid directory stream descriptor `dirp`.

ATTRIBUTES

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

[illegible]

POSIX.1-2008.

POSIX.1-2001, 4.3BSD.

Up to glibc 2.1.1, the return type of `telldir()` was `off_t`. POSIX.1-2001 specifies `long`, and this is the type used since glibc 2.1.2.

In early filesystems, the value returned by `telldir()` was a simple file offset within a directory. Modern filesystems use tree or hash structures, rather than flat tables, to represent directories. On such filesystems, the value returned by `telldir()` (and used internally by `readdir(3)`) is a "cookie" that is used by the implementation to derive a position within a directory. Application programs should treat this strictly as an opaque value, making no assumptions about its contents.

closedir(3), opendir(3), readdir(3), rewinddir(3), scandir(3), seekdir(3)