



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

\$ man tempnam.3

tempnam(3) Library Functions Manual tempnam(3)

NAME

tempnam - create a name for a temporary file

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

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

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

tempnam():

Since glibc 2.19:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

glibc 2.19 and earlier:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

Never use this function. Use mkstemp(3) or tmpfile(3) instead.

The tempnam() function returns a pointer to a string that is a valid filename, and such that a file with this name did not exist when tempnam() checked. The filename suffix of the pathname generated will start with pfx in case pfx is a non-NULL string of at most five bytes. The directory prefix part of the pathname generated is required to be "appropriate" (often that at least implies writable).

Attempts to find an appropriate directory go through the following steps:

(1) In case the environment variable TMPDIR exists and contains the name of an appropriate

(defined in <stdio.h>) times. If it is called more than TMP_MAX times, the behavior is implementation defined.

tempnam() uses at most the first five bytes from pfx.

The glibc implementation of tempnam() fails with the error EEXIST upon failure to find a unique name.

BUGS

The precise meaning of "appropriate" is undefined; it is unspecified how accessibility of a directory is determined.

SEE ALSO

mkstemp(3), mktemp(3), tmpfile(3), tmpnam(3)

Linux man-pages 6.17

2026-02-08

tempnam(3)