



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

\$ man tmpnam.3

tmpnam(3) Library Functions Manual tmpnam(3)

NAME

tmpnam, tmpnam_r - create a name for a temporary file

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

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

```
[[deprecated]] char *tmpnam(char *s);
```

```
[[deprecated]] char *tmpnam_r(char *s);
```

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

```
tmpnam_r()
```

Since glibc 2.19:

```
_DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

Up to and including glibc 2.19:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

Note: avoid using these functions; use mkstemp(3) or tmpfile(3) instead.

The tmpnam() function returns a pointer to a string that is a valid filename, and such that a file with this name did not exist at some point in time, so that naive programmers may think it a suitable name for a temporary file. If the argument s is NULL, this name is generated in an internal static buffer and may be overwritten by the next call to tmpnam(). If s is not NULL, the name is copied to the character array (of length at least L_tmpnam) pointed to by s and the value s is returned in case of success.

The `tmpnam_r()` function performs the same task as `tmpnam()`, but returns `NULL` (to indicate an error) if `s` is `NULL`.

These functions return a pointer to a unique temporary filename, or NULL if a unique name cannot be generated.

No errors are defined.

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

[illegible]

tmpnam()
C11, POSIX.1-2008.

tmpnam_r()
None.

SVr4, 4.3BSD, C89, POSIX.1-2001. Obsolete in POSIX.1-2008.

tmpnam_r()
Solaris.

The `tmpnam()` function generates a different string each time it is called, up to `TMP_MAX` times. If it is called more than `TMP_MAX` times, the behavior is implementation defined.

Although these functions generate names that are difficult to guess, it is nevertheless possible that between the time that the pathname is returned and the time that the program

opens it, another program might create that pathname using `open(2)`, or create it as a symbolic link. This can lead to security holes. To avoid such possibilities, use the `open(2)` `O_EXCL` flag to open the pathname. Or better yet, use `mkstemp(3)` or `tmpfile(3)`. Portable applications that use threads cannot call `tmpnam()` with a `NULL` argument if either `_POSIX_THREADS` or `_POSIX_THREAD_SAFE_FUNCTIONS` is defined.

BUGS

Never use these functions. Use `mkstemp(3)` or `tmpfile(3)` instead.

SEE ALSO

`mkstemp(3)`, `mktemp(3)`, `tempnam(3)`, `tmpfile(3)`

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`tmpnam(3)`