



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

\$ man unsetenv.3

unsetenv(3) Library Functions Manual unsetenv(3)

NAME

unsetenv - change or add an environment variable

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
int unsetenv(const char *name, const char *value, int overwrite);
```

```
int unsetenv(const char *name);
```

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

unsetenv(), unsetenv():

```
_POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200112L
```

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

DESCRIPTION

The `unsetenv()` function adds the variable name to the environment with the value value, if name does not already exist. If name does exist in the environment, then its value is changed to value if overwrite is nonzero; if overwrite is zero, then the value of name is not changed (and `unsetenv()` returns a success status). This function makes copies of the strings pointed to by name and value (by contrast with `putenv(3)`).

The `unsetenv()` function deletes the variable name from the environment. If name does not exist in the environment, then the function succeeds, and the environment is unchanged.

RETURN VALUE

`unsetenv()` and `unsetenv()` functions return zero on success, or -1 on error, with `errno` set to

ERRORS

ENOMEM Insufficient memory to add a new variable to the environment.

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

? Interface	? Attribute	? Value	?
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? setenv(), unsetenv() ? Thread safety ? MT-Unsafe const:env ?

STANDARDS

HISTORY

Prior to glibc 2.2.2, unsetenv() was prototyped as returning void; more recent glibc ver?

CAVEATS

BUGS

SEE ALSO

Linux man-pages 6.17 2026-02-08 setenv(3)