

**NAME**

openssl-rand, rand - generate pseudo-random bytes

**SYNOPSIS**

**openssl rand** [-help] [-out *file*] [-rand *file(s)*] [-base64] [-hex] *num*

**DESCRIPTION**

The **rand** command outputs *num* pseudo-random bytes after seeding the random number generator once. As in other **openssl** command line tools, PRNG seeding uses the file *\$HOME/.rnd* or **.rnd** in addition to the files given in the **-rand** option. A new *\$HOME/.rnd* or **.rnd** file will be written back if enough seeding was obtained from these sources.

**OPTIONS****-help**

Print out a usage message.

**-out *file***

Write to *file* instead of standard output.

**-rand *file(s)***

Use specified file or files or EGD socket (see [RAND\\_egd\(3\)](#)) for seeding the random number generator. Multiple files can be specified separated by an OS-dependent character. The separator is ; for MS-Windows, , for OpenVMS, and : for all others.

**-base64**

Perform base64 encoding on the output.

**-hex**

Show the output as a hex string.

**SEE ALSO**

[RAND\\_bytes\(3\)](#)

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