

NAME

`canonicalize_file_name` - return the canonicalized absolute pathname

SYNOPSIS

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE /* See feature\_test\_macros\(7\) */
#include <stdlib.h>

char *canonicalize_file_name(const char *path);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `canonicalize_file_name()` function returns a null-terminated string containing the canonicalized absolute pathname corresponding to *path*. In the returned string, symbolic links are resolved, as are `.` and `..` pathname components. Consecutive slash (`/`) characters are replaced by a single slash.

The returned string is dynamically allocated by `canonicalize_file_name()` and the caller should deallocate it with `free(3)` when it is no longer required.

The call `canonicalize_file_name(path)` is equivalent to the call:

```
realpath(path, NULL);
```

RETURN VALUE

On success, `canonicalize_file_name()` returns a null-terminated string. On error (e.g., a pathname component is unreadable or does not exist), `canonicalize_file_name()` returns NULL and sets *errno* to indicate the error.

ERRORS

See [realpath\(3\)](#).

CONFORMING TO

This function is a GNU extension.

SEE ALSO

[readlink\(2\)](#), [realpath\(3\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.74 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.