

**NAME**

clearenv - clear the environment

**SYNOPSIS**

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

```
int clearenv(void);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature\\_test\\_macros\(7\)](#)):

```
clearenv(): _SVID_SOURCE || _BSD_SOURCE
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **clearenv()** function clears the environment of all name-value pairs and sets the value of the external variable *environ* to NULL.

**RETURN VALUE**

The **clearenv()** function returns zero on success, and a nonzero value on failure.

**VERSIONS**

Available since glibc 2.0.

**CONFORMING TO**

Various UNIX variants (DG/UX, HP-UX, QNX, ...). POSIX.9 (bindings for FORTRAN77). POSIX.1-1996 did not accept **clearenv()** and [putenv\(3\)](#), but changed its mind and scheduled these functions for some later issue of this standard (cf. B.4.6.1). However, POSIX.1-2001 adds only [putenv\(3\)](#), and rejected **clearenv()**.

**NOTES**

Used in security-conscious applications. If it is unavailable the assignment

```
environ = NULL;
```

will probably do.

The DG/UX and Tru64 man pages write: If *environ* has been modified by anything other than the [putenv\(3\)](#), [getenv\(3\)](#), or **clearenv()** functions, then **clearenv()** will return an error and the process environment will remain unchanged.

**SEE ALSO**

[getenv\(3\)](#), [putenv\(3\)](#), [setenv\(3\)](#), [unsetenv\(3\)](#), [environ\(7\)](#)

**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/>.