

NAME

`ftime` - return date and time

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/timeb.h>

int ftime(struct timeb *tp);
```

DESCRIPTION

This function returns the current time as seconds and milliseconds since the Epoch, 1970-01-01 00:00:00 +0000 (UTC). The time is returned in *tp*, which is declared as follows:

```
struct timeb {
    time_t time;
    unsigned short millitm;
    short timezone;
    short dstflag;
};
```

Here *time* is the number of seconds since the Epoch, and *millitm* is the number of milliseconds since *time* seconds since the Epoch. The *timezone* field is the local timezone measured in minutes west of Greenwich (with a negative value indicating minutes east of Greenwich). The *dstflag* field is a flag that, if nonzero, indicates that Daylight Saving time applies locally during the appropriate part of the year.

POSIX.1-2001 says that the contents of the *timezone* and *dstflag* fields are unspecified; avoid relying on them.

RETURN VALUE

This function always returns 0. (POSIX.1-2001 specifies, and some systems document, a -1 error return.)

ATTRIBUTES

Multithreading (see [pthreads\(7\)](#))

The `ftime()` function is thread-safe.

CONFORMING TO

4.2BSD, POSIX.1-2001. POSIX.1-2008 removes the specification of `ftime()`.

This function is obsolete. Don't use it. If the time in seconds suffices, [time\(2\)](#) can be used; [gettimeofday\(2\)](#) gives microseconds; [clock_gettime\(2\)](#) gives nanoseconds but is not as widely available.

BUGS

Early glibc2 is buggy and returns 0 in the *millitm* field; glibc 2.1.1 is correct again.

SEE ALSO

[gettimeofday\(2\)](#), [time\(2\)](#)

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/>.