

**NAME**

`mkdtemp` - create a unique temporary directory

**SYNOPSIS**

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

```
char *mkdtemp(char *template);
```

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

```
mkdtemp():
    _BSD_SOURCE
    || /* Since glibc 2.10: */
    (_POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L || _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 700)
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The `mkdtemp()` function generates a uniquely named temporary directory from *template*. The last six characters of *template* must be `XXXXXX` and these are replaced with a string that makes the directory name unique. The directory is then created with permissions `0700`. Since it will be modified, *template* must not be a string constant, but should be declared as a character array.

**RETURN VALUE**

The `mkdtemp()` function returns a pointer to the modified template string on success, and `NULL` on failure, in which case *errno* is set appropriately.

**ERRORS****EINVAL**

The last six characters of *template* were not `XXXXXX`. Now *template* is unchanged.

Also see [mkdir\(2\)](#) for other possible values for *errno*.

**VERSIONS**

Available since glibc 2.1.91.

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

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

**CONFORMING TO**

POSIX.1-2008. This function is present on the BSDs.

**SEE ALSO**

[mkdir\(2\)](#), [mkstemp\(3\)](#), [mktemp\(3\)](#), [tempnam\(3\)](#), [tmpfile\(3\)](#), [tmpnam\(3\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

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