

NAME

mktemp - make a unique temporary filename

SYNOPSIS

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

```
char *mktemp(char *template);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see [feature_test_macros\(7\)](#)):

mktemp():

Since glibc 2.12:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE || (_XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500 ||
_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE_EXTENDED) &&
!( _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200112L || _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 600)
```

Before glibc 2.12:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE || _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500 ||
_XOPEN_SOURCE && _XOPEN_SOURCE_EXTENDED
```

DESCRIPTION

Never use this function; see NOTES.

The **mktemp()** function generates a unique temporary filename from *template*. The last six characters of *template* must be XXXXXX and these are replaced with a string that makes the filename unique. Since it will be modified, *template* must not be a string constant, but should be declared as a character array.

RETURN VALUE

The **mktemp()** function always returns *template*. If a unique name was created, the last six bytes of *template* will have been modified in such a way that the resulting name is unique (i.e., does not exist already) If a unique name could not be created, *template* is made an empty string, and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS

EINVAL

The last six characters of *template* were not XXXXXX.

CONFORMING TO

4.3BSD, POSIX.1-2001. POSIX.1-2008 removes the specification of **mktemp()**.

BUGS

Never use **mktemp()**. Some implementations follow 4.3BSD and replace XXXXXX by the current process ID and a single letter, so that at most 26 different names can be returned. Since on the one hand the names are easy to guess, and on the other hand there is a race between testing whether the name exists and opening the file, every use of **mktemp()** is a security risk. The race is avoided by [mkstemp\(3\)](#).

SEE ALSO

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

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/>.