

**NAME**

scandir, scandirat, alphasort, versionsort - scan a directory for matching entries

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <dirent.h>

int scandir(const char *dirp, struct dirent ***namelist,
            int (*filter)(const struct dirent *),
            int (*compar)(const struct dirent **, const struct dirent **));

int alphasort(const struct dirent **a, const struct dirent **b);

int versionsort(const struct dirent **a, const struct dirent **b);

#include <fcntl.h> /* Definition of AT_* constants */
#include <dirent.h>

int scandirat(int dirfd, const char *dirp, struct dirent ***namelist,
              int (*filter)(const struct dirent *),
              int (*compar)(const struct dirent **, const struct dirent **));
```

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

```
scandir(), alphasort():
    /* Since glibc 2.10: */ _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L || /* Glibc versions <= 2.19: */
    _BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE

versionsort(): _GNU_SOURCE

scandirat(): _GNU_SOURCE
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **scandir()** function scans the directory *dirp*, calling *filter()* on each directory entry. Entries for which *filter()* returns nonzero are stored in strings allocated via [malloc\(3\)](#), sorted using [qsort\(3\)](#) with the comparison function *compar()*, and collected in array *namelist* which is allocated via [malloc\(3\)](#). If *filter* is NULL, all entries are selected.

The **alphasort()** and **versionsort()** functions can be used as the comparison function *compar()*. The former sorts directory entries using [strcoll\(3\)](#), the latter using [strverscmp\(3\)](#) on the strings (*\*a*)->*d\_name* and (*\*b*)->*d\_name*.

**scandirat()**

The **scandirat()** function operates in exactly the same way as **scandir()**, except for the differences described here.

If the pathname given in *dirp* is relative, then it is interpreted relative to the directory referred to by the file descriptor *dirfd* (rather than relative to the current working directory of the calling process, as is done by **scandir()** for a relative pathname).

If *dirp* is relative and *dirfd* is the special value **AT\_FDCWD**, then *dirp* is interpreted relative to the current working directory of the calling process (like **scandir()**).

If *dirp* is absolute, then *dirfd* is ignored.

See [openat\(2\)](#) for an explanation of the need for **scandirat()**.

**RETURN VALUE**

The **scandir()** function returns the number of directory entries selected. On error, -1 is returned, with *errno* set to indicate the cause of the error.

The **alphasort()** and **versionsort()** functions return an integer less than, equal to, or greater than zero if the first argument is considered to be respectively less than, equal to, or greater than the second.

**ERRORS****ENOENT**

The path in *dirp* does not exist.

**ENOMEM**

Insufficient memory to complete the operation.

**ENOTDIR**

The path in *dirp* is not a directory.

The following additional errors can occur for **scandirat()**:

**EBADF**

*dirfd* is not a valid file descriptor.

**ENOTDIR**

*dirp* is a relative path and *dirfd* is a file descriptor referring to a file other than a directory.

**VERSIONS**

**versionsort()** was added to glibc in version 2.1.

**scandirat()** was added to glibc in version 2.15.

**ATTRIBUTES**

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see [attributes\(7\)](#).

Interface	Attribute	Value
<b>scandir()</b> , <b>scandirat()</b>	Thread safety	MT-Safe
<b>alphasort()</b> , <b>versionsort()</b>	Thread safety	MT-Safe locale

**CONFORMING TO**

**alphasort()**, **scandir()**: 4.3BSD, POSIX.1-2008.

**versionsort()** and **scandirat()** are GNU extensions.

**NOTES**

Since glibc 2.1, **alphasort()** calls [strcoll\(3\)](#); earlier it used [strcmp\(3\)](#).

Before glibc 2.10, the two arguments of **alphasort()** and **versionsort()** were typed as *const void \**. When **alphasort()** was standardized in POSIX.1-2008, the argument type was specified as the type-safe *const struct dirent \*\**, and glibc 2.10 changed the definition of **alphasort()** (and the nonstandard **versionsort()**) to match the standard.

**EXAMPLE**

The program below prints a list of the files in the current directory in reverse order.

**Program source**

```
#define _DEFAULT_SOURCE
#include <dirent.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int
main(void)
{
    struct dirent **namelist;
    int n;

    n = scandir(".", &namelist, NULL, alphasort);
    if (n == -1) {
        perror("scandir");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
}
```

```
    }
    while (n--) {
        printf("%s\n", namelist[n]->d_name);
        free(namelist[n]);
    }
    free(namelist);
    exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

**SEE ALSO**

[closedir\(3\)](#), [fnmatch\(3\)](#), [opendir\(3\)](#), [readdir\(3\)](#), [rewinddir\(3\)](#), [seekdir\(3\)](#), [strcmp\(3\)](#), [strcoll\(3\)](#), [strverscmp\(3\)](#), [telldir\(3\)](#)

**COLOPHON**

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