NAME

putenv − change or add an environment variable

SYNOPSIS

#include <stdlib.h>

int putenv(char ****string*);**

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see **feature_test_macros**(7)):

putenv(): _XOPEN_SOURCE
|| /* Glibc since 2.19: */ _DEFAULT_SOURCE
|| /* Glibc versions <= 2.19: */ _SVID_SOURCE

DESCRIPTION

The **putenv**() function adds or changes the value of environment variables. The argument *string* is of the form *name*=*value*. If *name* does not already exist in the environment, then *string* is added to the environment. If *name* does exist, then the value of *name* in the environment is changed to *value*. The string pointed to by *string* becomes part of the environment, so altering the string changes the environment.

RETURN VALUE

The **putenv**() function returns zero on success, or nonzero if an error occurs. In the event of an error, *errno* is set to indicate the cause.

ERRORS

ENOMEM
Insufficient space to allocate new environment.

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see **attributes**(7).

Interface	Attribute	Value
putenv()	Thread safety	MT-Unsafe const:env

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, SVr4, 4.3BSD.

NOTES

The **putenv**() function is not required to be reentrant, and the one in glibc 2.0 is not, but the glibc 2.1 version is.

Since version 2.1.2, the glibc implementation conforms to SUSv2: the pointer *string* given to **putenv**() is used. In particular, this string becomes part of the environment; changing it later will change the environment. (Thus, it is an error to call **putenv**() with an automatic variable as the argument, then return from the calling function while *string* is still part of the environment.) However, glibc versions 2.0 to 2.1.1 differ: a copy of the string is used. On the one hand this causes a memory leak, and on the other hand it violates SUSv2.

The 4.4BSD version, like glibc 2.0, uses a copy.

SUSv2 removes the *const* from the prototype, and so does glibc 2.1.3.

The GNU C library implementation provides a nonstandard extension. If *string* does not include an equal sign:

```
putenv("NAME");
```

then the named variable is removed from the caller's environment.

SEE ALSO

clearenv(3), **getenv**(3), **setenv**(3), **unsetenv**(3), **environ**(7)

COLOPHON

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