

**NAME**

openssl-rand, rand – generate pseudo-random bytes

**SYNOPSIS**

**openssl rand** [**-help**] [**-out** *file*] [**-rand** *file...*] [**-writerand** *file*] [**-base64**] [**-hex**] *num*

**DESCRIPTION**

The **rand** command outputs *num* pseudo-random bytes after seeding the random number generator once. As in other **openssl** command line tools, PRNG seeding uses the file *\$HOME/.rnd* or **.rnd** in addition to the files given in the **-rand** option. A new *\$HOME/.rnd* or **.rnd** file will be written back if enough seeding was obtained from these sources.

**OPTIONS****-help**

Print out a usage message.

**-out** *file*

Write to *file* instead of standard output.

**-rand** *file...*

A file or files containing random data used to seed the random number generator. Multiple files can be specified separated by an OS-dependent character. The separator is ; for MS-Windows, , for OpenVMS, and : for all others.

**[-writerand** *file*]

Writes random data to the specified *file* upon exit. This can be used with a subsequent **-rand** flag.

**-base64**

Perform base64 encoding on the output.

**-hex**

Show the output as a hex string.

**SEE ALSO**

**RAND\_bytes**(3)

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