NAME

unlinkat − remove a directory entry relative to a directory file descriptor

SYNOPSIS

#define _ATFILE_SOURCE
#include <fcntl.h>

int unlinkat(int *dirfd***, const char *** *pathname***, int** *flags***);**

DESCRIPTION

The **unlinkat**() system call operates in exactly the same way as either **unlink**(2) or **rmdir**(2) (depending on whether or not *flags* includes the **AT_REMOVEDIR** flag) except for the differences described in this manual page.

If the pathname given in *pathname* 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 **unlink**(2) and **rmdir**(2) for a relative pathname).

If the pathname given in *pathname* is relative and *dirfd* is the special value **AT_FDCWD**, then *pathname* is interpreted relative to the current working directory of the calling process (like **unlink**(2) and **rmdir**(2)).

If the pathname given in *pathname* is absolute, then *dirfd* is ignored.

flags is a bit mask that can either be specified as 0, or by ORing together flag values that control the operation of **unlinkat**(). Currently only one such flags is defined:

AT_REMOVEDIR
By default, **unlinkat**() performs the equivalent of **unlink**(2) on *pathname*. If the **AT_REMOVEDIR** flag is specified, then performs the equivalent of **rmdir**(2) on *pathname*.

RETURN VALUE

On success, **unlinkat**() returns 0. On error, −1 is returned and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS

The same errors that occur for **unlink**(2) and **rmdir**(2) can also occur for **unlinkat**(). The following additional errors can occur for **unlinkat**():

EBADF
dirfd is not a valid file descriptor.

EINVAL
An invalid flag value was specified in *flags*.

ENOTDIR
pathname is relative and *dirfd* is a file descriptor referring to a file other than a directory.

VERSIONS

unlinkat() was added to Linux in kernel 2.6.16.

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2008. A similar system call exists on Solaris.

NOTES

See **openat**(2) for an explanation of the need for **unlinkat**().

SEE ALSO

openat(2), **rmdir**(2), **unlink**(2), **path_resolution**(7)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 3.22 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, and information about reporting bugs, can be found at http://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/.