▼ Notes on "EP" Library

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▽ 1 INTRODUCTION

This document describes the Enhanced Portability library. This is a reduced version of Eric's Portability library (designed for sendmail), removing many things that didn't work out or proved unnecessary, e.g., the entire I/O subsystem. It was originally intended to be used in sendmail, so some of the terminology is geared toward the email world; none the less, it should be generally useful.

Programs using libep should be able to minimize #ifdef since often non-portable functionality is wrapped in portability routines; for example, BSD-derived systems and Linux-derived systems differ in how you get the name of the currently running program. These differences are hidden if the application calls ep app getprogname.

▼ 1.1 Design Goals

- Portable, to the extent possible. Where not possible, there needs to be a clearly codified way to represent the externally visible semantic differences.
- Efficient.
- Customizable -- try to implement mechanism, not policy.
- TBD: It should be entirely UTF-8 internally. Any translations to other character sets should be done on input or output, and then only as strictly necessary.

▼ 1.2 Assumptions

Use of this library requires that you have a C compiler that is compliant with ANSI C as defined by ANSI/ISO 9899–1999. Also requires an environment that is at least Posix based on Posix.1–2008.

1.3 Conventions

All externally visible names (i.e., those not declared "static" in a file) shall be named ep_* (for routine names) or Ep* (for variable names). In a few cases, the names may begin with __ep or __Ep; such names would be in the global namespace, but would be intended for use internal to the library only. There are a few cases where "standard" names (such as strlcpy) are defined if they are not included in the standard library.

▼ 1.4 Terminology

▼ 1.4.1 Warning, Error, Severe, Abort

These words get used fairly loosely, so they are worth defining. In the context of libep:

• Warning means a condition that is expected in normal operations, but is not the usual case. Reading an end-of-file on a file might be a warning. Applications need to be aware of these, but are expected to either ignore them or recover easily. This can also be used for temporary errors which are likely to recover

after a delay. For example, the inability to open a connection to a remote server might recover automatically if that server is re-started. However, this sort of warnings that persist should turn into permanent errors in a fashion appropriate for the application.

- Error means a situation that should not occur, but isn't terribly unusual. For example, an attempt to open a file that isn't accessible would be an error. Applications must be aware of such conditions and handle them gracefully.
- Severe means a situation that should not occur iand requires exceptional handling. Severe errors are drastic conditions, but are not so severe that the application can't take some reasonable backout action.
- Abort means a situation so drastic that an application cannot be expected to make any reasonable recovery. These might include assertion errors and memory allocation failures during a critical step (e.g., something where backing out a single thread won't solve the problem). About the only thing an application can reasonably do is log an abort error and exit. In particular, an abort is appropriate when an attempt for an application to recover is likely to do additional damage. These should be extremely rare.

2 GENERAL ISSUES

All files using this library must use "#include <ep/ep.h>".

3 STATUS CODES

Almost all functions return an EP_STAT value. This is a short (integer-encoded) status value that gives you a brief idea of how severe the problem was and some idea of what it was, but not much else. Think of it as an errno equivalent. Functions returning any status other than OK are expected to provide some other way of returning detailed data.

EP STATS are also used as message identifiers for logging (below).

Status codes are defined in <ep/ep stat.h>.

3.1 Severities

Severities are:

EP STAT SEV OK

Everything is fine. Detail may contain info. For messages, can be used for debugging.

EP STAT SEV WARN

The function partially succeeded, but there is something that the application should be aware of, e.g., an end of file or a short data read. Alternatively, the functionfailed, but it might work again on a later try.

EP_STAT_SEV_ERROR

A normal error status. The call failed.

EP STAT SEV SEVERE

A severe error status. The call failed, and the caller should try to back out.

EP STAT SEV ABORT

A critical error occured — you should clean up and exit as soon as possible; the program cannot be expected to operate correctly.

Some functions for testing values:

EP_STAT_SEV_ISOK(st)

Returns true if this is an EP_STAT_SEV_OK status code.

EP STAT SEV WARN(St)

Returns true if this is an "warning" severity status code: EP STAT SEV WARN.

EP STAT SEV ISFAIL(st)

Returns true if this message is a "failure" severity status code: EP STAT SEV WARN or higher.

EP STAT SEV ISERROR(St)

Returns true if this is an "error" severity status code: EP STAT SEV ERROR

EP STAT SEV ISPERM(St)

Returns true if this message is a "permanent failure" severity status code: EP STAT SEV ERROR or higher

EP STAT SEV ISSEVERE(st)

Returns true if this is an "severe" severity status code: EP STAT SEV SEVERE

EP STAT SEV ISMAJOR(st)

Returns true if this message is a "major" severity status code: EP STAT SEV SEVERE or higher

EP STAT SEV ISABORT(st)

Returns true if this is an "abort" severity status code: EP STAT SEV ABORT

3.2 Status Code Representation

Status codes are represented as four-part values: severity, registry, module, and detail. The severities are described above. Registries are globally registered by neophilic.com and are defined in ep_registry.h. There are some registries for general use; in particular, registry numbers between 0x001 and 0x1FF are available for local (non-global) registry at the corporate or local level. Modules are defined by registries, and detail is defined by module. It is *never* acceptable to look at detail unless you recognize the module. (OK, you can print it out for debugging.) Severity = 3 bits, registry = 13 bits, module = 6 bits, detail = 10 bits.

Any severity where the top bit is zero is considered "OK", and the rest of the word is available to encode a non-negative integer.

Status codes are represented as structures to ensure type safety. Occassionally you might want to convert a status to or from a long int:

```
int EP_STAT_TO_INT(EP_STAT stat) // convert status to unsigned int EP_STAT EP_STAT_FROM_INT(unsigned int istat) // convert unsigned integer to status
```

The constituent parts of the status code can also be extracted:

EP STAT SEV(St)

Returns the severity part of the status code.

EP STAT REGISTRY(st)

Returns the registry part of the status code.

EP_STAT_MODULE(st)

Returns the module part of the status code.

EP_STAT_DETAIL(st)

Returns the detail part of the status code.

To compare two statuses for equality, use EP_STAT_IS_SAME(a, b).

As a special case, if the severity is EP_STAT_SEV_OK the rest of the word is ignored; this can be used to pass small integers (no more than 31 bits) of information.

▽ 3.3 Predefined Status Codes

All status codes from this library are in the EP_REGISTRY_EPLIB registery. There are several predefined status codes for generic use, all using module EP_STAT_MOD_GENERIC:

EP_STAT_OK	No error (also integer 0)
EP_STAT_WARN	Generic warning status
EP_STAT_ERROR	Generic error status
EP_STAT_SEVERE	Generic severe error status
EP_STAT_ABORT	Generic abortive status
EP_STAT_OUT_OF_MEMORY	Out of memory
EP_STAT_ARG_OUT_OF_RANGE	An argument was out of range
EP_STAT_END_OF_FILE	End of input
EP_STAT_TIME_BADFORMAT	Couldn't parse a date/time string
EP_STAT_BUF_OVERFLOW	Buffer overflow averted

There is also a special module EP_STAT_MOD_ERRNO that encodes Posix-style errnos (i.e., use EP_STAT_DETAIL on codes returned by that module to get the Posix errno code).

▼ 3.4 Manipulating Status Codes

There are several routines to print error codes or create them on the fly. Note that ep_stat_tostr returns the buffer itself.

```
// create status code from UNIX errno
extern EP_STAT ep_stat_from_errno(
                     int uerrno);
// return string representation of status
char
              *ep stat tostr(
                     EP STAT estat,
                     char *buf,
                     size_t bsize);
// return string representation of severity (in natural language)
int sev);
// print a status code and abort (never returns)
void
              ep stat abort(
                     EP STAT estat);
```

▼ 3.5 Creating New Status Codes

Libraries and applications can create their own specific error codes. There are four steps to do this:

1. Determine the registry. The registry name space is divided as follows:

0x000 (EP_REGISTRY_GENERIC)	reserved for generic status codes
0x001 (EP_REGISTRY_USER)	available for internal use to an application

0x002-0x07F	available for local, unregistered use, such as separate applications within an application suite
0x080-0x0FF	available for internal corporate registry, but not registered globally; conflicts may occur between organizations but not within an organization
0×100 (EP_REGISTRY_EPLIB)	reserved for libep
0x101-0x6FF	available for centrally managed global registry — contact the libep maintainers for an allocation
0×700-0×7FF	reserved

- 2. Determine the module(s) in which the error code should exist. These must be unique within a registry and in the range 0x00-0xFF.
- 3. Define the error codes you want to use using EP STAT NEW, e.g.,

4. (Optional step) Define the strings associated with the error codes when they are printed. These are done by populating a table and then calling ep_stat_register_strings. For example:

▼ 4 INITIALIZATION

Although libep will generally work without initialization, in some cases you may need to give it information about your usage. To do this call ep lib init:

```
#include <ep/ep.h>
EP_STAT
ep_lib_init(uint32_t flags)
```

Flags can be:

EP_LIB_USEPTHREADS	Initialize the thread support
--------------------	-------------------------------

▼ 5 MEMORY ALLOCATION AND RESOURCE POOLS

▽ 5.1 Memory

Memory support is much like malloc/free, but with some additional functionality. One crucial difference is that most of these routines do not return if memory is exhausted; instead they can call a cleanup routine that might (for example) eliminate some old cache entries, or pick a "victim" thread to kill and reclaim its memory. If successful they can continue, otherwise the process is aborted.

```
#include <ep/ep_mem.h>
```

```
void *
ep mem malloc(size t nbytes)
                                  // allocate uninitialized memory
                                  // allocate zeroed memory
ep_mem_zalloc(size_t nbytes)
void *
ep mem ralloc(size t nbytes)
                                  // allocate randomized memory
void *
ep_mem_ealloc(size_t nbytes)
                                  // allocate memory, failure OK
void *
ep mem realloc(size t nbytes,
                                   // reallocate (extend) memory
           void *curmem)
void *
ep_mem_falloc(size_t nbytes,
                                  // allocate memory (see flags)
           uint32 t flags)
void
                                  // free indicated memory
ep_mem_mfree(void *mem)
struct ep malloc functions
           *(*m malloc)(size t);
    void
    void
           *(*m realloc)(void*, size t);
           *(*m_valloc)(size_t);
    void
    void (*m_free)(void*);
};
void
ep mem set malloc functions(
                                   // set underlying malloc functions
            struct ep_malloc_functions *funcs)
```

The ep_mem_malloc, ep_mem_zalloc, ep_mem_ralloc, and ep_mem_realloc are all implemented in terms of ep_mem_falloc, which uses flags to tune the behavior (see below). The primary interface is ep_mem_malloc, which returns uninitialized data; ep_mem_zalloc returns zeroed memory, and ep_mem_ralloc returns memory that is initialized to random or some other nonsensical data. The last would probably be used only for debugging, and can be turned on at runtime using a debug flag XXX TBD.

In all allocation schemes, the function returns a pointer to the allocated data — they cannot normally return NULL (but see below). If they cannot allocate the memory, they *do error recovery (XXX describe)*. If recovery fails, the allocation system will abort the process. However, ep_mem_ealloc can return NULL on memory allocation failure, as can ep_mem_falloc if the EP_MEM_F_FAILOK flag bit is set (see below).

Flag bits are as follows:

EP_MEM_F_FAILOK

Permits the routine to return NULL on failure. This modifies the behavior described above. Note that if this is set every call to the ep *malloc routines may potentially fail.

EP_MEM_F_ZERO

Zero any returned memory.

EP_MEM_F_TRASH

Randomize any returned memory.

EP_MEM_F_ALIGN

The application would prefer that the allocation is page-aligned. This is not available on all architectures,

and other architectures do it automatically if the allocation is at least as large as a page.

EP_MEM_F_WAIT

If memory is unavailable, try to wait for it to become available (e.g., because another thread has released memory). *This is not yet implemented*.

Specifying EP MEM F ZERO and EP MEM F TRASH at the same time is undefined.

Since ep_mem_[mzr]alloc are implemented as macros, they can't be used as pointers to functions (e.g., for specifying a memory allocator callback to a third party app). For this reason, there are also ep mem [mzr]alloc f "real" functions to be used in this context.

Generally, unthreaded code and most application code will probably be happy with the defaults. Threaded server code (which cannot be permitted to die) is expected to catch the out of memory condition, do some recovery operation such as terminating a task, and return EP_MEM_STAT_TRYAGAIN so the memory allocation can retry.

[[[XXX Document ep_set_malloc_functions XXX]]]

▽ 5.2 Resource Pools

Resources are allocatable global entities such as memory, file descriptors, etc. Resources can be collected together into pools and then freed in one call. Memory is specially handled to allow fast allocation from a pool --- specifically, a chunk of memory can be allocated from the heap to a pool and then sub-allocated as needed. Allocating memory from resource pools is particularly fast for small allocations. Also, pool allocations that are of a size that is a multiple of the page size are guaranteed to return a page-aligned pointer. This is particularly useful to allow the I/O level to implement zero-copy I/O.

The heap used is the one that is current when ep rpool new is invoked.

```
#include <ep/ep_mem.h>
EP RPOOL *
ep_rpool_new(const char *name, // for debugging
         size t qsize)
                                    // min memory allocation quantum
EP STAT
ep_rpool_free(EP_RPOOL *rp)
                                    // free pool and all resources
void *
ep rpool malloc(EP RPOOL *rp,
                                    // the pool to allocate from
        size_t nbytes)
                                    // number of bytes
void *
ep_rpool_zalloc(EP_RPOOL *rp,
                                    // the pool to allocate from
         size_t nbytes)
                                    // number of bytes
void *
uint32_t flags)
                                    // flag bits (see below)
void *
ep_rpool_strdup(EP_RPOOL *rp,
                                     // the pool to allocate from
         char *str)
                                     // the string to save
void *
```

```
ep rpool realloc(EP RPOOL *rp,
                                           // pool to allocate from
           void *old mem,
                                           // old memory pointer
           size t oldsize,
                                           // old allocation size
           size_t newsize)
                                           // new allocation size
void
ep_rpool_mfree(EP_RPOOL *rp,
                                           // the pool to release to
           void *p);
                                           // the memory
void
ep_rpool_mfreeto(EP_RPOOL *rp,
                                           // the pool to release to
           void *p);
                                           // restore up the pool to here
EP STAT
ep_rpool_attach(EP_RPOOL *rp,
                                           // the resource pool
           void freefunc(void *arg),
                                           // a function to call on free
           void *arg)
                                            // argument to pass to it
```

The ep_rpool_mfreeto() routine lets you treat rpool memory like a stack; this call releases everything allocated back to (and including) the pointer given. If p == NULL, the entire memory contents of the rpool are freed, but the rpool itself is still active. Deep care needs to be taken here: if a subordinate routine is called that allocates memory from the rpool, you may end up deallocating memory that is still in use. Not implemented at this time.

The ep_rpool_attach() routine is used to associate other resources (such as files) with a pool. The corresponding free functions will be invoked when the pool is freed.

In most cases, passing in rp == NULL treats the call like the corresponding heap allocation. In this case the caller is responsible for freeing the memory. For example, $ep_rpool_malloc(NULL, nbytes)$ is equivalent to $ep_mem_malloc(nbytes)$.

The distinction between multiple heaps and resource pools are that heaps are not intended for application use other than for doing recovery for out-of-memory conditions. Pools are intended for general use. Pools are fast at allocation time (since they just grab space from the end of the pool) and fast at free time (since the entire pool can be deallocated at once); heaps are comparatively slow.

When any memory collections (heaps or pools) are freed, all objects allocated from that collection are freed (i.e., their destructors are automatically invoked).

▽ 5.3 Opening Memory as a File

▽ 6 TIME

The ep library has a separate time abstraction. This is for two reasons: first, it guarantees that the number of seconds since January 1, 1970 will be sufficiently long to last past 2038 (this varies from system to system), and it includes a "tv_accuracy" (type float) to indicate the approximate accuracy of the clock relative to absolute time. For example, a clock synchronized from a GPS clock might be accurate within perhaps 100nsec, whereas a standard crystal clock synchronized once a day might only have an accuracy of a few seconds.

```
#include <ep/ep_time.h>

typedef struct
{
    int64_t tv_sec;  // seconds since Jan 1, 1970
```

```
int32 t
                  tv nsec;
                                    // nanoseconds
                   tv accuracy;
        float
                                    // clock accuracy in seconds
} EP TIME SPEC;
EP STAT
ep_time_now(
                                    // return current time
       EP TIME SPEC *tv);
EP STAT
ep_time_deltanow(
                                    // return time in the future (or past)
        uint64_t delta_nanoseconds,
       EP TIME SPEC *tv);
void
ep_time_add_delta(
                                    // add a delta to a time (delta may be negative)
       EP_TIME_SPEC *delta,
       EP TIME SPEC *tv);
bool
ep time before(
                                    // determine if A occurred before B
       EP_TIME_SPEC *a,
       EP_TIME_SPEC *b);
void
ep_time_from_nsec(
                                    // create a time from a scalar number of nanoseconds
        int64 t delta,
       EP TIME SPEC *tv);
float
ep_time_accuracy(void);
                                    // return putative clock accuracy
void
ep time setaccuracy(
                                    // set the clock accuracy (may not be available)
        float accuracy);
void
ep time format(
                                    // format a time string into a buffer
       EP TIME SPEC *tv,
       char *buf,
       size t bufsize,
       uint32 t flags);
void
                                    // format a time string to a file
ep time print(
       EP TIME_SPEC *tv,
        FILE *fp,
       uint32 t flags);
// values for ep_time_format and ep_time_print flags
#define EP_TIME_FMT_DEFAULT 0
                                              // pseudo-flag
#define EP TIME FMT HUMAN
                               0x0000001
                                               // format for humans
#define EP_TIME_FMT_NOFUZZ
                              0x00000002
                                              // suppress accuracy printing
EP STAT
                                    // parse a time string
ep_time_parse(
       const char *timestr,
       EP_TIME_SPEC *tv);
EP STAT
ep time nanosleep(
                                    // sleep for the indicated number of nanoseconds
        int64_t nanoseconds);
```

"Human" formatted times are intended to be human readable, and may use non-ASCII characters. Otherwise the format is intended to be machine readable, e.g., using ep time parse.

▽ 7 DATA STRUCTURES

₹ 7.1 Property Lists

Not implemented at this time. A series of key=value pairs. Used for many things, including configuration files. For example, looking in the "configuration" property list for "mailer.local.timeout.connect" would return the connect timeout for the local mailer. [[How does this deal with nested defaults — e.g., looking for timeout.connect if the full path cannot be found?]]

```
EP PLIST *
ep_plist_new(
                                         // for printing
           const char *name)
EP STAT
ep_plist_load(
                                       // the list to read into
           EP_PLIST *plp,
           FILE *sp,
                                        // the stream to load from
           const char *prefix)
                                         // prefix added to all properties
EP_STAT
ep_plist_set(
           EP_PLIST *plp,
const char *keyname,
                                        // the plist in which to set
                                         // the name of the key to set
           const char *value)
                                         // the value to set (will be copied)
const char *
ep plist get(
           EP PLIST *plp,
                                         // the plist to search
           const char *keyname)
                                         // the name of the key to get
void
ep plist dump(
                                         // plist to print
           EP_PLIST *plp,
           FILE *sp)
                                         // stream to print to
void
ep plist free(
           EP PLIST *plp)
                                         // plist to free
```

A property list can be loaded from an external stream using ep_plist_load. The syntax of the file is a simple text file with "key=value" pairs on separate lines, with blank lines and those with # at the beginning of the line ignored. The values are strictly strings. [[Does it make sense to type them?]]

[[Note the overlap between plists and the ep_adm interface. Does this make sense?]]

Property lists can be printed using ep_plist_dump. The output format will be readable by ep_plist_load. For the time being, flags should always be 0.

Warning The property list is not guaranteed to be dumped in the same order items are inserted.

▽ 7.2 Hashes

```
#include <ep/ep hash.h>
EP HASH *
ep_hash_new(
             EP_HASH_HASH_FUNCP *hfunc, // for printing int tabsize) // hash table 6
                                                   // hash table function size
void
ep_hash_free(
             EP HASH *hp)
                                                  // hash to free
void *
ep hash search(
             size t keylen,
                                                   // length of key
              const void *key)
                                                   // pointer to key
void *
                                       // returns old value for key
ep hash insert(
             EP_HASH *hp,
size_t keylen,
const void *key,
void *val
                                                  // hash to modify
                                                   // length of key
                                                  // pointer to key
              void *val)
                                                  // value to insert
                       ASH *hp, // hash to walk unc)( // function to call int keylen, // key length const void *key, // key value void *val, // value void *closure), // from caller losure) // passed to func
ep_hash_forall(EP_HASH *hp,
              void (func)(
              void *closure)
ep hash dump(EP TREE *tree,
                                                   // tree to dump
                                                  // stream to print on
             FILE *sp)
```

[[Should ep_hash_dump take the same parameters as the usual object print routine? For that matter, should there be a separate ep_hash_dump routine, or should it just be a generic ep_obj_dump? Note that ep_hash_dump is not implemented at this time, but an internal (object-based) dump is.]]

▼ 7.3 Function Lists

```
void
ep_funclist_pop(EP_FUNCLIST *fp) // list to pop from, value discarded

void
ep_funclist_clear(EP_FUNCLIST *fp) // list to clear

void
ep_funclist_invoke(EP_FUNCLIST *fp) // invoke all functions in list
```

▼ 8 CRYPTOGRAPHIC SUPPORT

The current implementation wraps the OpenSSL library, but it could be retargeted.

Before any cryptographic functions can be used, the library must be initialized:

```
void ep_crypto_init(uint32_t flags)
```

At the moment flags is unused (just pass zero). There are also several general purpose definitions, useful for declaring buffers without memory allocation:

EP_CRYPTO_MAX_PUB_KEY	Maximum length of a public key
EP_CRYPTO_MAX_SEC_KEY	Maximum length of a secret key
EP_CRYPTO_MAX_DIGEST	Maximum length of a message digest
EP_CRYPTO_MAX_DER	Maximum length of a DER-encoded key

▼ 8.1 Key Management

Internally all keys are represented as EP_CRYPTO_KEY variables, defined in ep_crypto.h. External representations for keys may be either PEM (Privacy Enhanced Mail, represented as text) or DER (Distinguished Encoding Rules, represented in binary). PEM self identifies the type of key, but DER does not, so in some cases the key type needs to be pre-arranged.

```
// on-disk key formats
# define EP_CRYPTO_KEYFORM_UNKNOWN 0 // error
# define EP_CRYPTO_KEYFORM_PEM 1 // PEM (ASCII-encoded text)
# define EP_CRYPTO_KEYFORM_DER 2 // DER (binary ASN.1)
```

Internally, algorithms (e.g., for keys and hash/digest functions) are represented by a scalar value. Keys also have to be identified as public or secret.

[[Note: DH is not supported at this time.]]

```
// key types
# define EP CRYPTO KEYTYPE UNKNOWN
                                                // error
                                        0
# define EP_CRYPTO_KEYTYPE_RSA
                                                // RSA
                                        1
                                                // DSA
# define EP_CRYPTO_KEYTYPE_DSA
                                        2
# define EP CRYPTO KEYTYPE EC
                                        3
                                                // Elliptic curve
# define EP CRYPTO KEYTYPE DH
                                                // Diffie-Hellman
// flag bits
# define EP CRYPTO F PUBLIC
                                                // public key (no flags set)
                                        0x0000
# define EP CRYPTO F SECRET
                                        0x0001 // secret key
```

Keys are represented as an EP_CRYPTO_KEY. New keys can be created by giving the type of the key desired, the length of the key in bits, and two other values that are interpreted by the key type. The first is primarily for RSA and gives the exponent, and the second is primarily for EC and gives the curve name.

Keys can be read from or written to named files, open files, or memory. All the read routines create and return a new key data structure. If the keyform is EP CRYPTO KEYFORM PEM then the keytype need not be specified.

```
EP CRYPTO KEY
                         *ep crypto key read file(
                                 const char *filename,
                                 int keyform,
                                 uint32_t flags);
EP_CRYPTO_KEY
                         *ep_crypto_key_read_fp(
                                 FILE *fp,
                                 const char *filename,
                                 int keyform,
                                 uint32_t flags);
EP CRYPTO KEY
                         *ep crypto key read mem(
                                 const void *buf,
                                 size t buflen,
                                 int keyform,
                                 uint32_t flags);
EP STAT
                        ep_crypto_key_write_file(
                                 EP_CRYPTO_KEY *key,
                                 const char *filename,
                                 int keyform,
                                 int cipher,
                                 uint32_t flags);
EP_STAT
                        ep_crypto_key_write_fp(
                                 EP_CRYPTO_KEY *key,
                                 FILE *fp,
                                 int keyform,
                                 int cipher,
                                 uint32 t flags);
EP_STAT
                        ep_crypto_key_write_mem(
                                 EP_CRYPTO_KEY *key,
                                 void *buf,
                                 size t bufsize,
                                 int keyform,
                                 int cipher,
                                 uint32_t flags);
```

When finished with a key it must be freed.

There are also some utility routines. A public and a secret key can be compared to see if they match each other (same algorithm, keysize, etc.) using ep_crypto_key_compat. Various conversions are also included: ep_crypto_keyform_byname converts a text string (e.g., "pem") to an internal code, ep_crypto_keytype_fromkey returns the type of a key, and ep_crypto_keytype_byname converts a text string to a type.

▼ 8.2 Message Digests (Hashes)

Several message digest (cryptographic hash) algorithms are supported. Text can be converted to one of these values, and the algorithm type can be extracted from the internal form.

```
// digest algorithms (no more than 4 bits)
# define EP CRYPTO MD NULL
# define EP CRYPTO MD SHA1
                                1
# define EP CRYPTO MD SHA224
                                2
# define EP_CRYPTO_MD_SHA256
                                3
# define EP_CRYPTO_MD_SHA384
                                4
# define EP_CRYPTO_MD_SHA512
int
                        ep crypto md alg byname(
                                const char *algname);
int
                        ep crypto md type(
                                EP_CRYPTO_MD *md);
```

Digests (type EP_CRYPTO_MD) can be created, freed, and cloned. Cloning lets an application compute the a fixed part of a digest (perhaps an unchanging header) and then produce separate digests for individual records.

The typical lifetime of a digest is to be created (as above), updated with additional data, possibly multiple times, and then finalized to give the output hash.

▼ 8.3 Signing and Verification

Signing and verification are quite similar. A new internal structure is created, using the same type as a message digest, data is added to the existing hash, possibly multiple times, the signature is created or verified, and finally the structure is freed.

```
void *dbuf,
                                 size_t dbufsize);
EP STAT
                        ep crypto sign final(
                                EP_CRYPTO_MD *md,
                                 void *sbuf,
                                 size_t *sbufsize);
                        *ep_crypto_vrfy new(
EP CRYPTO MD
                                 EP CRYPTO KEY *pkey,
                                 int md_alg_id);
void
                        ep_crypto_vrfy_free(
                                EP_CRYPTO_MD *md);
EP STAT
                        ep crypto vrfy update(
                                 EP CRYPTO MD *md,
                                 void *dbuf,
                                 size_t dbufsize);
EP_STAT
                        ep_crypto_vrfy_final(
                                EP CRYPTO MD *md,
                                 void *obuf,
                                 size t obufsize);
```

▼ 8.4 Encryption and Decryption (Asymmetric)

To be supplied.

▼ 8.5 Encryption and Decryption (Symmetric Ciphers)

Symmetric Ciphers are driven by a Chaining Mode (how subsequent blocks have the key modified to prevent replay and brute force attacks) and the actual cipher itself. The chaining modes are:

EP_CRYPTO_MODE_CBC	Cipher Block Chaining
EP_CRYPTO_MODE_CFB	Cipher Feedback mode
EP_CRYPTO_MODE_OFB	Output Feedback mode

The various cipher algorithms (which is equivalent to the key type) are:

EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_NONE	Error/unencrypted
EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_AES128	Advanced Encr Std, 128-bit key
EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_AES192	Advanced Encr Std, 192-bit key
EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_AES256	Advanced Encr Std, 256-bit key
EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_CAMELLIA128	Camellia, 128-bit key
EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_CAMELLIA192	Camellia, 192-bit key
EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_CAMELLIA256	Camellia, 256-bit key
EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_DES	Data Encryption Standard, single, 56-bit key
EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_3DES	Data Encryption Standard, triple, 128-bit key (112-bit effective)
EP_CRYPTO_SYMKEY_IDEA	International Data Encryption Alg, 128-bit key

One value from each table are "or"ed together to specify a full symmetric cipher. The rest of the interface is as follows:

```
/*

** The cipher is set to encrypt or decrypt when the context
```

```
is created.
**
**
       ep crypto cipher crypt is just shorthand for a single
**
       call to ep_crypto_cipher_update followed by a single
**
       call to ep_crypto_cipher_final. Final pads out any
**
       remaining block and returns that data.
*/
EP CRYPTO CIPHER CTX
                       *ep crypto cipher new(
                                                      // mode + keytype & len
                               uint32_t ciphertype,
                               uint8_t *key,
                                                     // the key
                                                      // initialization vector
                               uint8_t *iv,
                               bool enc);
                                                      // true => encrypt
void
                       ep crypto cipher free(
                               EP CRYPTO CIPHER CTX *cipher);
EP_STAT
                       ep_crypto_cipher_crypt(
                               EP_CRYPTO_CIPHER_CTX *cipher,
                               void *in,
                                                     // input data
                               size_t inlen,
                                                     // input length
                                                     // output buffer
                               void *out,
                                                     // output buf size
                               size_t outlen);
EP_STAT
                       ep_crypto_cipher_update(
                               EP CRYPTO CIPHER CTX *cipher,
                                              // input data
                               void *in,
                                                      // input length
                               size t inlen,
                               void *out,
                                                     // output buffer
                               size_t outlen);
                                                     // output buf size
                       ep_crypto_cipher_final(
EP_STAT
                               EP CRYPTO CIPHER CTX *cipher,
                               void *out,
                                                      // output buffer
                               size t outlen);
                                                       // output buf size
```

▼ 8.6 Cryptography-specific Error Codes

There are several status codes that may be returned from the cryptography routines. These are all in module EP_STAT_MOD_CRYPTO.

EP_STAT_CRYPTO_DIGEST	Failed to update or finalize a digest (hash)
EP_STAT_CRYPTO_SIGN	Failed to update or finalize a digest for signing
EP_STAT_CRYPTO_VRFY	Failed to update or finalize a digest for verification
EP_STAT_CRYPTO_BADSIG	Signature did not match
EP_STAT_CRYPTO_KEYTYPE	Unknown key type
EP_STAT_CRYPTO_KEYFORM	Unknown key format
EP_STAT_CRYPTO_CONVERT	Couldn't read or write a key
EP_STAT_CRYPTO_KEYCREATE	Couldn't create a new key
EP_STAT_CRYPTO_KEYCOMPAT	Public and secret keys are incompatible
EP_STAT_CRYPTO_CIPHER	Symmetric cipher failure

▽ 9 APPLICATION SUPPORT

The following routines are intended to provide useful support to applications, but are not otherwise fundamental

▽ 9.1 Printing Flag Words, Etc.

For example, given a descriptor of:

```
0x0000, 0x0003, "READ",
0x0001, 0x0003, "WRITE",
0x0002, 0x0003, "READWRITE",
0x0003, 0x0003, "[INVALID MODE]",
0x0004, 0x0004, "NONBLOCK",
0x0008, 0x0008, "APPEND",
0, 0, NULL
```

then a flagword of 0x0009 would print:

0009<WRITE, APPEND>

▽ 9.2 Printing Helpers

A few routines to make it easier to create string versions of other type variables, e.g., for ep_stat_post.

All of these return their input buffer.

The routine ep_pcvt_str truncates the value to the indicated size. If the value won't fit, it renders "beginning...end" where end is the last three bytes of the value.

9.3 Application Messages

Associated with status printing.

The first two just print messages; the final prints the message and does not return. They all use printf formats.

```
const char *
ep_app_getprogname(void) // get current program name
```

This is a portability wrapper that returns the name of the current program (essentially, the last component of argv[0]).

▽ 9.4 Printing Memory

To print out a block of binary memory, use ep_hexdump.

This prints a block of memory as a hexadecimal dump, optionally with an ASCII rendition. The offset printed starts at the offset parameter (zero to make the printed offsets be relative to bufp). The format may be EP_HEXDUMP_HEX to print only the hexadecimal or EP_HEXDUMP_ASCII to also show the bytes interpreted as ASCII (unprintable characters are substituted).

▼ 10 DEBUGGING, TRACING, ASSERTIONS

Named flags, each settable from 0 to 127.

When setting flags, wildcards can be used (only "*" supported for now).

```
#include <ep/ep_dbg.h>
void
                                   // initialize debugging
ep dbg init(void)
void
                                   // set debug flags (command line)
ep_dbg_set(const char *fspec)
ep_dbg_setto(const char *fpat,
                                   // flag pattern
                                   // level
           int lev)
EP DBG flag EP DBG INIT(
                                  // opaque structure for flag
                                  // external name of flag
                   name,
                   desc);
                                  // description (internal use only)
int
ep dbg level(EP DBG *flag)
                                   // return level of given flag
ep_dbg_test(EP_DBG *flag,
            int value)
                                   // true if flag set to >= value
```

Assertions all in <ep/ep_assert.h>:

▼ 11 THREAD SUPPORT

These are mostly wrappers around the pthreads library, but they will print errors if the ep.thr debug flag is set to at least 4.

```
#include <ep/ep_thr.h>
int
ep_thr_mutex_init(EP_THR_MUTEX *mtx, int type);
int
ep_thr_mutex_destroy(EP_THR_MUTEX *mtx);
int
ep_thr_mutex_lock(EP_THR_MUTEX *mtx);
int
ep_thr_mutex_trylock(EP_THR_MUTEX *mtx);
int
ep_thr_mutex_unlock(EP_THR_MUTEX *mtx);
int
ep_thr_mutex_unlock(EP_THR_MUTEX *mtx);
int
ep_thr_mutex_check(EP_THR_MUTEX *mtx);
int
ep_thr_cond_init(EP_THR_COND *cv);
int
ep_thr_cond_destroy(EP_THR_COND *cv);
int
ep_thr_cond_signal(EP_THR_COND *cv);
int
ep_thr_cond_signal(EP_THR_COND *cv);
int
ep_thr_cond_signal(EP_THR_COND *cv);
int
ep_thr_cond_wait(EP_THR_COND *cv);
```

```
int
ep_thr_cond_broadcast(EP_THR_COND *cv);
int
ep_thr_rwlock_init(EP_THR_RWLOCK *rwl);
int
ep_thr_rwlock_destroy(EP_THR_RWLOCK *rwl);
int
ep_thr_rwlock_rdlock(EP_THR_RWLOCK *rwl);
int
ep_thr_rwlock_tryrdlock(EP_THR_RWLOCK *rwl);
int
ep_thr_rwlock_wrlock(EP_THR_RWLOCK *rwl);
int
ep_thr_rwlock_wrlock(EP_THR_RWLOCK *rwl);
int
ep_thr_rwlock_tryrwlock(EP_THR_RWLOCK *rwl);
int
ep_thr_rwlock_tryrwlock(EP_THR_RWLOCK *rwl);
int
ep_thr_rwlock_unlock(EP_THR_RWLOCK *rwl);
```

The ep_thr_*_check routines check the structures for consistency and print an error; this is only for debugging. This should be expanded to include spawning threads etc.; for the time being just use the pthreads primitives.

There is also a basic thread pool implementation:

```
#include <ep/ep_thr.h>

void
ep_thr_pool_init(
    int min_threads,
    int max_threads,
    uint32_t flags);

void
ep_thr_pool_run(
    void (*func)(void *),
    void *arg);
```

Thread pools are initially started with min_threads workers (which may be zero; defaults to the libep.thr.pool.min_workers administrative parameter, or 1 if that is not set). Threads will be spawned as necessary up to max_threads total workers (defaults to libep.thr.pool.max_workers; if that is not set, defaults to twice the number of cores available).

Threads are run in essentially the same way as spawning a pthreads thread; this is really just a convenience wrapper around that so resources can be better controlled.

▼ 12 LOGGING

Messages may be logged together with a status code:

```
int logfac,
   FILE *logfile,
   const char *fname);

void
ep_log(
        EP_STAT estat,
        const char *fmt,
        ...);

void
ep_logv(
        EP_STAT estat,
        const char *fmt,
        void
ep_logv(
        EP_STAT estat,
        const char *fmt,
        va_list va);
```

This interface can simultaneously log to syslog (if logfac is a valid facility code), an open file (e.g., stderr; NULL disables this), and a disk file (ignored if fname == NULL). The status code is logged together with the printf-style message. The syslog severity is determined from the severity of the status code: OK codes log an LOG_INFO message, WARN codes log a LOG_WARNING message, ERROR codes log a LOG_ERR message, SEVERE codes log a LOG CRIT message, and ABORT codes log a LOG ALERT message.

▼ 13 ARGUMENT CRACKING

Not implemented at this time. To help with parsing command line arguments. A descriptor is declared as follows:

```
#include <ep/ep crackargv.h>
unsigned long
                     NTests;
                     Seed;
long
                     *FileName;
static char
                     ArgvDescriptor[] =
EP CAV DESCR
    { "debug",
                             EP CAV TYPE (debug),
                                                       'D',
                                                               5,
            "Debug",
                                      "debug-flags",
                                                               NULL,
            EP CAV FLAG NOARGS
      "ntests",
                             EP CAV TYPE(ulong),
                                                       'n',
                                                               1.
            "Number of tests",
                                                               &NTests,
                                      NULL,
            EP CAV FLAG REQUIRED
      "seed",
                             EP CAV TYPE(long),
                                                       's',
                                                               1,
            NULL,
                                      NULL,
                                                               &Seed,
            EP CAV FLAG NONE
    }
                                                       '\0',
    { NULL,
                             EP_CAV_TYPE(string),
                                                               &FileName,
            NULL.
                                     NULL,
            EP CAV FLAG NONE
    EP CAV DESCR END
};
```

The ep crackargy routine is then called with an argument vector and a descriptor:

```
stat = ep_crackargv(const char **argv, const EP_CAV_DESCR *descr);
```

The argument vector is then matched to the descriptor and appropriate bindings done. Duplicate and missing flags are diagnosed and all conversions are done.

The fields in the descriptor are:

- The long name. On Unix, this is matched against arguments beginning "--". This is case independent.
- The data type. This is always EP_CAV_TYPE(something), which calls the conversion routine named ep_cvt_txt_to_something passing it the value as a text string and a pointer to the output location (see below).
- The short (single character) name. On Unix, this is matched against arguments beginning "-". Flags without values can be combined into one flag -- that is, if "-a -b" sets two boolean flags, "-ab" does the same thing.
- The number of bytes of the long name that must match. This allows abbreviation of names. See below.
- The prompt. If flags are required and a prompt is available, ep_crackargv can prompt for missing parameters. Not yet implemented.
- The usage message to describe this parameter. Defaults to the long name.
- The value pointer. A pointer to the data area in which to store the results. If NULL, this parameter cannot accept a value.
- Flag bits, as described below.

Long flag names can be abbreviated. All characters of the command line must match the descriptor, but only the number indicated in the "must match" field need be present. For example, given a name in the descriptor of "ntests" with a "must match" field of 2 will match "--ntests", "--ntes", "--nt", but not "--ntext", "--n", or "--nteststotry".

Flag bits include:

EP CAV FLAG NONE

No special processing

EP_CAV_FLAG_NOARGS

This parameter takes no arguments (e.g., a boolean)

EP_CAV_FLAG_NOMORE

This consumes all remaining arguments (normally EP_CAV_TYPE(Vector))

EP_CAV_FLAG_MULTVAL

There can be multiple values for this parameter (only relevant for flags)

EP CAV FLAG REQUIRED

If this parameter is missing it is an error

Predefined types and the type of the corresponding value pointer are:

bool bool_t * Booleans. Should have EP_CAV_FLAG_NOARGS. string const char ** Strings. long long * Signed long integers. ulong unsigned long * Unsigned long integers. double double * Double point floating point. vector const char *** Vectors. Must have the EP_CAV_FLAG_MULTVAL flag set. Can only be one, and it must be at the end. debug NULL Sets debug flags

To appear:

int8 int8_t * uint8 uint8_t * int16 int16_t * uint16 uint16_t * int32 int32_t * uint32_t * int64 int64_t * uint64 uint64_t * admparam const char *

Administrative parameters (see ep adm getintparam and ep adm getstrparam). The value pointer is the

name of the parameter to set.

New parameter types can be trivially created by defining new routines named ep_cvt_txt_to_type that take a const_char * as input and a type * output pointer. They return EP_STAT. Conversion errors should fail.

▼ 14 MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

```
EP UT BITSET(uint32 bits,
                                      // return true if any bits...
               uint32 t word)
                                      // ... are set in word
/*
   EP_UT_SETBIT(uint32_t bits,
                                      // set these bits...
               uint32 t word)
                                      // ... in this word
   EP UT CLRBIT(uint32 bits,
                                      // clear these bits...
               uint32_t word)
                                      // ... in this word
*/
   EP UT BITMAP(
                             // declare bitmap
                                      // name of bitmap to declare
       name,
       nbits)
                                      // number of bits in map
                            // clear bitmap
   EP_UT_CLRBITMAP(
                                      // bitmap to clear
       name)
   EP_UT_BITNSET(int bitn,
                                      // true if bit number bitn is set...
               bitmap)
                                     // ... in this map
   EP UT_SETBITN(int bitn,
                                  // set bit number bitn...
               bitmap)
                                     // ... in this map
   EP UT CLRBITN(int bitn,
                                      // clear bit number bitn...
               bitmap)
                                      // ... in this map
   EP GEN DEADBEEF
                                      // a value you can use to trash memory
```

Warning There is no checking for the BITMAP routines (EP_UT_BITNSET, EP_UT_SETBITN, EP_UT_CLRBITN) to ensure that the bit indicated is in range for the size of the bitmap.

▼ 15 INTERACTION WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

▼ 15.1 Global Administrative Parameters

There are a bunch of parameters that we would prefer to be settable at run time. We'll model this on sysctl(8). Before accessing parameters you must read them using ep_adm_readparams. This routine takes a name and then looks for a file in a search path. That path may be set using the PARAM_PATH environment variable, and defaults to:

```
.ep_adm_params:~/.ep_adm_params:/usr/local/etc/ep_adm_params:/etc/ep_adm_params
```

For example, searching for a name such as "defaults" will first try to read the file .ep_adm_params/defaults. If that is found the search stops, otherwise it trys ~/.ep_adm_params/defaults, and so forth. New values replace old ones, so programs that want to search more than one file should start with the most generic one and continue to the least generic one.

```
#include <ep/ep_adm.h>

void
ep_adm_readparams(
```

```
const char *name)
                                    // basename of the parameter file
int
ep_adm_getintparam(
            const char *name,
                                    // name of the parameter
            int default)
                                    // value if parameter not set
long
ep adm getlongparam(
            const char *name,
                                    // name of the parameter
            long default)
                                    // value if parameter not set
bool
ep adm getboolparam(
            const char *name,
                                   // name of the parameter
                                    // value if parameter not set
            bool default)
const char *
ep adm getstrparam(
            const char *name,
                                    // name of the parameter
            char *default)
                                    // value if parameter not set
```

Names are structured kind of like sysctl arguments or X Resource names, e.g.,

▼ 15.2 Terminal Video Sequences and Characters

Mostly for debugging use. Right now compiled in for ANSI xterms.

```
#include <ep/ep string.h>
struct epVidSequences
   const char *vidfgyellow; // set foreground yellow
   const char *vidfgblue;
                              // set foreground blue
   const char *vidfgmagenta; // set foreground magenta
   const char  *vidfgcyan;  // set foreground cyan
const char  *vidfgwhite  // set foreground white
   const char
                *vidbgblack; // set background black
                             // set background red
   const char
                *vidbgred;
   const char
                *vidbggreen;
                              // set background green
   const char
                *vidbgyellow; // set background yellow
   const char
                *vidbgblue
                               // set background blue
   const char
                *vidbgmagenta; // set background magenta
                *vidbgcyan;
   const char
                              // set background cyan
                             // set background white
                *vidbtwhite;
   const char
} *EpVid;
struct epCharSequences
   const char
                *lquote;
                               // left quote sequence
```

[&]quot;libep.stream.hfile.bsize". You must read one or more parameter files before getting parameters.

```
const char
                                                                 // right quote sequence
                                  *rquote;
      const char *rquote; // right quote sequence
const char *copyright; // copyright symbol
const char *degree; // degree symbol
const char *micro; // micro symbol
const char *plusminus; // +/- symbol
const char *times; // mathematical times symbol
const char *divide; // mathematical division symbol
const char *null; // "null" symbol
const char *notequal; // mathematical "not equal" symbol
       const char *unprintable; // substitution for unprintable characters
      const char *paragraph;  // paragraph symbol
const char *section;  // section symbol
const char *notsign;  // logical not symbol
const char *infinity;  // infinity symbol
} *EpChar;
EP_STAT ep_str_vid_set(
                                                              // set video style
       const char
                                  *type);
                                                                 // NULL, "none", or "ansi"
EP STAT ep str char set(
                                                                  // set special characters
       const char
                                  *type);
                                                                  // character set (see below)
```

These structures contain character sequences used for printing video controls and special characters respectively. The ep_str_vid_set routines allows you to choose the video escape sequences. Passing NULL causes an educated guess at the default on the basis of the TERM environment variable. Any TERM setting beginning with "xterm" is the same as specifying "ansi" as the type and anything else is the same as specifying "none" as the type (which sets all the video strings to null strings). Blessedly, xterm doesn't seem to render blink, nor faint or standout. Bold and blink are both rendered in bold. So, for best results use bold, uline, and inv (and of course norm).

The ep_str_char_set allows you to set special character encodings. Its parameter may be NULL (which guesses based on the LANG environment variable), "ascii", "iso-8859-1", "iso-latin-1", "utf-8", or "utf8". The mappings are shown in the following table:

Name	ASCII	Other Charset
lquote	,	«
rquote	1	»
copyright	(c)	©
degree	deg	0
micro	u	μ
plusminus	+/-	±
times	*	×
divide	1	÷
null	NULL	Ø
notequal	!=	≠
unprintable	?	×
paragraph	рр.	1
section	sec.	§
notsign	(not)	7

Other values may be added to this table as needed.

Example:

▼ 16 TRANSLATIONS

Simple string translations for certain external formats, for example as might be used by URLs or Quoted-Printable.

Translates an external form (with encodings) into internal form (potentially 8-bit binary). Returns the number of output bytes. The "how" parameter tells what translations to do -- they can be combined:

```
▽ EP XLATE "how" Bits
```

EP_XLATE_PERCENT	Translate "%xx" like ESMTP
EP_XLATE_BSLASH	Translate backslash escapes like C
EP_XLATE_AMPER	Translate "&name" like HTML
EP_XLATE_PLUS	Translate "+xx" like DNSs
EP_XLATE_EQUAL	Translate "=xx" like quoted-printable
EP_XLATE_8BIT	Translate 8-bit characters (ep_xlate_out only)
EP_XLATE_NPRINT	Translate non-printable characters (ep_xlate_out only)

Unlike input, it doesn't make sense to list more than one of EP_XLATE_PERCENT, EP_XLATE_BSLASH, EP_XLATE_EQUAL, and EP_XLATE_PLUS. If none are listed, EP_XLATE_PLUS is assumed. EP_XLATE_8BIT can be added to encode all 8-bit characters and EP_XLATE_NPRINT translates all unprintable characters (as determined by isprint(3), which generally does understand locales). Returns the number of bytes output to the indicated osp.

Note [[Arguably they should both use streams for both input and output.]]

There are also routines to encode/decode binaries in base64.

```
#include <ep/ep b64.h>
    size_t bsize, // size of bin to encode char *txt, // text output buffer size_t tsize, // size of output buffer const char *encoding) // two
EP STAT
ep_b64_encode(
                                          // size of output buffer
// type of encoding (see below)
EP_STAT
ep b64 decode(
     const char *txt,
                                                 // text to decode
     size_t tsize,
                                                 // stop after tsize characters
     void *bin,
                                                // binary output buffer
     size_t bsize,
                                                // size of bin buffer
     const char *encoding)
                                                // type of encoding (see below)
#define EP_B64_NOWRAP 0x00 // never wrap lines
#define EP_B64_WRAP64 0x01 // wrap at 64 characters
#define EP_B64_WRAP76 0x02 // wrap at 76 characters
#define EP_B64_WRAPMASK 0x03 // bit mask for wrapping
#define EP_B64_PAD 0x04 // pad_with |--|
#define EP_B64_PAD
#define EP_B64_IGNCRUD
                                     0x04 // pad with '='
                                      80x0
                                                // ignore unrecognized chars
// encodings for common standards
#define EP_B64_ENC_MIME "+/N"
                                                 // WRAP76 PAD IGNCRUD
#define EP_B64_ENC_PEM
                                      "+/E"
                                                 // WRAP64 PAD -IGNCRUD
                                      "- @"
#define EP_B64_ENC_URL
                                                 // NOWRAP -PAD -IGNCRUD
```

The encoding is a three character string. The first two characters are used to represent the codes for positions 62 and 63 (these are the only two that are not letters or digits). The third is used as flag bits to indicate variations for various encodings. The three most common strings are included as defined constants (for MIME email, Privacy Enhanced Mail, and URLs).

¬ 17 XXX TO BE DONE

- Document ep_pprint.
- Document ep_dumpfds (shows open file descriptors (for debugging).
- Document ep_fread_unlocked.