

**NAME**

time – get time in seconds

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <time.h>
```

```
time_t time(time_t *t);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

**time()** returns the time since the Epoch (00:00:00 UTC, January 1, 1970), measured in seconds.

If *t* is non-NULL, the return value is also stored in the memory pointed to by *t*.

**RETURN VALUE**

On success, the value of time in seconds since the Epoch is returned. On error,  $((time\_t) - 1)$  is returned, and *errno* is set appropriately.

**ERRORS****EFAULT**

*t* points outside your accessible address space.

**CONFORMING TO**

SVr4, 4.3BSD, C89, C99, POSIX.1-2001. POSIX does not specify any error conditions.

**NOTES**

POSIX.1 defines *seconds since the Epoch* as a value to be interpreted as the number of seconds between a specified time and the Epoch, according to a formula for conversion from UTC equivalent to conversion on the naive basis that leap seconds are ignored and all years divisible by 4 are leap years. This value is not the same as the actual number of seconds between the time and the Epoch, because of leap seconds and because clocks are not required to be synchronized to a standard reference. The intention is that the interpretation of seconds since the Epoch values be consistent; see POSIX.1 Annex B 2.2.2 for further rationale.

**SEE ALSO**

**date(1)**, **gettimeofday(2)**, **ctime(3)**, **ftime(3)**, **time(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/>.