## NAME

tempfile − create a temporary file in a safe manner

## SYNOPSIS

**tempfile** [−d DIR] [−p STRING] [−s STRING] [−m MODE] [−n FILE] [−−directory=DIR] [−−prefix=STRING] [−−suffix=STRING] [−−mode=MODE] [−−name=FILE] [−−help] [−−version]

## DESCRIPTION

**tempfile** creates a temporary file in a safe manner. It uses**mkstemps**(3) to choose the name and opens it with O_RDWR | O_CREAT | O_EXCL. The filename is printed on standard output.

The directory in which to create the file might be searched for in this order:

a) In case the environment variable **TMPDIR** exists and contains the name of an appropriate directory, that is used.

b) Otherwise, if the−−*dir ectory* argument is specified and appropriate, it is used.

c) Otherwise, *P_tmpdir* (as defined in <*stdio.h*>) is used when appropriate.

d) Finally an implementation-defined directory (*/tmp*) may be used.

## OPTIONS

**−d, −−directory** *DIR*
Place the file in DIR.

**−m, −−mode** *MODE*
Open the file with MODE instead of 0600.

**−n, −−name** *FILE*
Use FILE for the name instead of **tempnam**(3)**.** The options −d, −p, and −s are ignored if this option is given.

**−p, −−prefix** *STRING*
Use up to five letters of STRING to generate the name.

**−s, −−suffix** *STRING*
Generate the file with STRING as the suffix.

**−−help** Print a usage message on standard output and exit successfully.

**−−version**
Print version information on standard output and exit successfully.

## RETURN VALUES

An exit status of 0 means the temporary file was created successfully. Any other exit status indicates an error.

## BUGS

Exclusive creation is not guaranteed when creating files on NFS partitions. tempfile cannot make temporary directories. tempfile is deprecated; you should use **mktemp**(1) instead.

## EXAMPLE

```
#!/bin/sh
#[...]
t=$(tempfile) || exit
trap "rm −f −− '$t'" EXIT
#[...]
rm −f −− "$t"
trap - EXIT
exit
```

## SEE ALSO

**tempnam**(3), **mktemp**(1)