NAME

clearenv − clear the environment

LIBRARY

Standard C library (*libc*, *−lc*)

SYNOPSIS

#include <stdlib.h>

int clearenv(void);

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see **feature_test_macros**(7)):

clearenv():
/* glibc >= 2.19: */ _DEFAULT_SOURCE
|| /* glibc <= 2.19: */ _SVID_SOURCE || _BSD_SOURCE

DESCRIPTION

The **clearenv**() function clears the environment of all name-value pairs and sets the value of the external variable *environ* to NULL. After this call, new variables can be added to the environment using **putenv**(3) and **setenv**(3).

RETURN VALUE

The **clearenv**() function returns zero on success, and a nonzero value on failure.

VERSIONS

Available since glibc 2.0.

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see **attributes**(7).

Interface	Attribute	Value
clearenv()	Thread safety	MT-Unsafe const:env

STANDARDS

Various UNIX variants (DG/UX, HP-UX, QNX, ...). POSIX.9 (bindings for FORTRAN77). POSIX.1-1996 did not accept **clearenv**() and **putenv**(3), but changed its mind and scheduled these functions for some later issue of this standard (see §B.4.6.1). However, POSIX.1-2001 adds only **putenv**(3), and rejected **clearenv**().

NOTES

On systems where **clearenv**() is unavailable, the assignment

```
environ = NULL;
```

will probably do.

The **clearenv**() function may be useful in security-conscious applications that want to precisely control the environment that is passed to programs executed using **exec**(3). The application would do this by first clearing the environment and then adding select environment variables.

Note that the main effect of **clearenv**() is to adjust the value of the pointer **environ**(7); this function does not erase the contents of the buffers containing the environment definitions.

The DG/UX and Tru64 man pages write: If *environ* has been modified by anything other than the **putenv**(3), **getenv**(3), or **clearenv**() functions, then **clearenv**() will return an error and the process environment will remain unchanged.

SEE ALSO

getenv(3), **putenv**(3), **setenv**(3), **unsetenv**(3), **environ**(7)