

NAME

mktemp – make a unique temporary filename

LIBRARY

Standard C library (*libc*, *-lc*)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
char *mktemp(char *template);
```

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

mktemp():

Since glibc 2.12:

```
(_XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500) && ! (_POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200112L)
```

```
|| /* glibc >= 2.19: */ _DEFAULT_SOURCE
```

```
|| /* glibc <= 2.19: */ _SVID_SOURCE || _BSD_SOURCE
```

Before glibc 2.12:

```
_BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE || _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500
```

DESCRIPTION

Never use this function; see BUGS.

The **mktemp()** function generates a unique temporary filename from *template*. The last six characters of *template* must be XXXXXX and these are replaced with a string that makes the filename unique. Since it will be modified, *template* must not be a string constant, but should be declared as a character array.

RETURN VALUE

The **mktemp()** function always returns *template*. If a unique name was created, the last six bytes of *template* will have been modified in such a way that the resulting name is unique (i.e., does not exist already). If a unique name could not be created, *template* is made an empty string, and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS**EINVAL**

The last six characters of *template* were not XXXXXX.

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
mktemp()	Thread safety	MT-Safe

STANDARDS

4.3BSD, POSIX.1-2001. POSIX.1-2008 removes the specification of **mktemp()**.

BUGS

Never use **mktemp()**. Some implementations follow 4.3BSD and replace XXXXXX by the current process ID and a single letter, so that at most 26 different names can be returned. Since on the one hand the names are easy to guess, and on the other hand there is a race between testing whether the name exists and opening the file, every use of **mktemp()** is a security risk. The race is avoided by **mkstemp(3)** and **mkdtemp(3)**.

SEE ALSO

mktemp(1), **mkdtemp(3)**, **mkstemp(3)**, **tempnam(3)**, **tmpfile(3)**, **tmpnam(3)**