

**NAME**

scandir, scandirat, alphasort, versionsort – scan a directory for matching entries

**LIBRARY**

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

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <dirent.h>

int scandir(const char *restrict dirp,
            struct dirent ***restrict namelist,
            int (*filter)(const struct dirent *),
            int (*compar)(const struct dirent **,
                          const struct dirent **));

int alphasort(const struct dirent **a, const struct dirent **b);
int versionsort(const struct dirent **a, const struct dirent **b);

#include <fcntl.h>      /* Definition of AT_* constants */
#include <dirent.h>

int scandirat(int dirfd, const char *restrict dirp,
              struct dirent ***restrict namelist,
              int (*filter)(const struct dirent *),
              int (*compar)(const struct dirent **,
                            const struct dirent **));
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see **feature\_test\_macros(7)**):

```
scandir(), alphasort():
    /* Since glibc 2.10: */ _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L
    || /* glibc <= 2.19: */ _BSD_SOURCE || _SVID_SOURCE

versionsort():
    _GNU_SOURCE

scandirat():
    _GNU_SOURCE
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **scandir()** function scans the directory *dirp*, calling *filter()* on each directory entry. Entries for which *filter()* returns nonzero are stored in strings allocated via **malloc(3)**, sorted using **qsort(3)** with the comparison function *compar()*, and collected in array *namelist* which is allocated via **malloc(3)**. If *filter* is NULL, all entries are selected.

The **alphasort()** and **versionsort()** functions can be used as the comparison function *compar()*. The former sorts directory entries using **strcoll(3)**, the latter using **strverscmp(3)** on the strings *(\*a)→d\_name* and *(\*b)→d\_name*.

**scandirat()**

The **scandirat()** function operates in exactly the same way as **scandir()**, except for the differences described here.

If the pathname given in *dirp* is relative, then it is interpreted relative to the directory referred to by the file descriptor *dirfd* (rather than relative to the current working directory of the calling process, as is done by **scandir()** for a relative pathname).

If *dirp* is relative and *dirfd* is the special value **AT\_FDCWD**, then *dirp* is interpreted relative to the current working directory of the calling process (like **scandir()**).

If *dirp* is absolute, then *dirfd* is ignored.

See **openat(2)** for an explanation of the need for **scandirat()**.

## RETURN VALUE

The **scandir()** function returns the number of directory entries selected. On error, `-1` is returned, with *errno* set to indicate the error.

The **alphasort()** and **versionsort()** functions return an integer less than, equal to, or greater than zero if the first argument is considered to be respectively less than, equal to, or greater than the second.

## ERRORS

### EBADF

(**scandirat()**) *dirp* is relative but *dirfd* is neither **AT\_FDCWD** nor a valid file descriptor.

### ENOENT

The path in *dirp* does not exist.

### ENOMEM

Insufficient memory to complete the operation.

### ENOTDIR

The path in *dirp* is not a directory.

### ENOTDIR

(**scandirat()**) *dirp* is a relative pathname and *dirfd* is a file descriptor referring to a file other than a directory.

## VERSIONS

**versionsort()** was added in glibc 2.1.

**scandirat()** was added in glibc 2.15.

## ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
<b>scandir()</b> , <b>scandirat()</b>	Thread safety	MT-Safe
<b>alphasort()</b> , <b>versionsort()</b>	Thread safety	MT-Safe locale

## STANDARDS

**alphasort()**, **scandir()**: 4.3BSD, POSIX.1-2008.

**versionsort()** and **scandirat()** are GNU extensions.

## NOTES

Since glibc 2.1, **alphasort()** calls **strcoll(3)**; earlier it used **strcmp(3)**.

Before glibc 2.10, the two arguments of **alphasort()** and **versionsort()** were typed as *const void \**. When **alphasort()** was standardized in POSIX.1-2008, the argument type was specified as the type-safe *const struct dirent \*\**, and glibc 2.10 changed the definition of **alphasort()** (and the nonstandard **versionsort()**) to match the standard.

## EXAMPLES

The program below prints a list of the files in the current directory in reverse order.

### Program source

```
#define _DEFAULT_SOURCE
#include <dirent.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int
main(void)
{
    struct dirent **namelist;
```

```
int n;

n = scandir(".", &namelist, NULL, alphasort);
if (n == -1) {
    perror("scandir");
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}

while (n-- > 0) {
    printf("%s\n", namelist[n]-->d_name);
    free(namelist[n]);
}
free(namelist);

exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

**SEE ALSO**

**closedir(3), fnmatch(3), opendir(3), readdir(3), rewinddir(3), seekdir(3), strcmp(3), strcoll(3), strverscmp(3), telldir(3)**