

CSI 402 – Systems Programming – Handout 12.4

An Example Using the ftw System Call

Note: The following example, taken from pages 75–76 of the text by Haviland et al., shows how the `ftw` system call is used. For each file/directory encountered during the recursive tree walk, the program prints the name and the permission bits. If the name represents a directory or a symbolic link, an asterisk (*) is also printed.

```
/* A simple example to illustrate the use of ftw system call. */

#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <ftw.h>

/* The following mask will be used to print only the last nine */
/* permission bits for each file.                                */

#define MODE_MASK 0777

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {

    /* Prototype for the function to be used with ftw. */
    int list (const char *, const struct stat *, int);

    /* If no command line arguments are specified, then the */
    /* recursive tree walk starts at the current working directory. */
    /* For simplicity, the depth parameter is chosen as 1. */

    if (argc == 1) {
        ftw(".", list, 1);
    }
    else {
        /* Otherwise, the recursive tree walk begins with the */
        /* directory specified by argv[1]. */
        ftw(argv[1], list, 1);
    }

    return 0;
} /* End of main. */
```

(over)

```

int list (const char *name, const struct stat *status, int type) {

    /* This function is passed to ftw by main. */

    /* If the call to stat failed, then just return. */

    if (type == FTW_NS)
        return 0;

    /* Otherwise, print the name of the file, permissions and the '*' suffix */
    /* if the file is a directory or a symbolic link. */

    /* The "-30" parameter used in printf call ensures that the name is */
    /* left justified in a field of length 30 characters. The "3o" format */
    /* prints the permissions in octal. */

    if (type == FTW_F)
        printf("%-30s\t0%3o\n", name, status->st_mode & MODE_MASK);
    else
        printf("%-30s*\t0%3o\n", name, status->st_mode & MODE_MASK);

    return 0;

} /* End of list. */

```