The Open Group Base Specifications Issue 7, 2018 edition
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## NAME

sys/un.h - definitions for UNIX domain sockets

## SYNOPSIS

#include <sys/un.h>

## DESCRIPTION

The *<sys/un.h>* header shall define the **sockaddr_un** structure, which shall include at least the following members:

```
sa_family_t   sun_family   Address family.
char          sun_path[]   Socket pathname.
```

The **sockaddr_un** structure is used to store addresses for UNIX domain sockets. Pointers to this type shall be cast by applications to **struct sockaddr \*** for use with socket functions.

The *<sys/un.h>* header shall define the **sa_family_t** type as described in *<sys/socket.h>*.

*The following sections are informative.*

## APPLICATION USAGE

The size of *sun_path* has intentionally been left undefined. This is because different implementations use different sizes. For example, 4.3 BSD uses a size of 108, and 4.4 BSD uses a size of 104. Since most implementations originate from BSD versions, the size is typically in the range 92 to 108.

Applications should not assume a particular length for *sun_path* or assume that it can hold {_POSIX_PATH_MAX} bytes (256).

Although applications are required to initialize all members (including any non-standard ones) of a **sockaddr_in6** structure (see *<netinet/in.h>*), the same is not required for the **sockaddr_un** structure, since historically many applications only initialized the standard members. Despite this, applications are encouraged to initialize **sockaddr_un** structures in a manner similar to the required initialization of **sockaddr_in6** structures.

## RATIONALE

None.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

## SEE ALSO

*<netinet/in.h>*, *<sys/socket.h>*

XSH *bind*, *socket*, *socketpair*

## CHANGE HISTORY

First released in Issue 6. Derived from the XNS, Issue 5.2 specification.

### Issue 7

The value for {_POSIX_PATH_MAX} is updated to 256.

POSIX.1-2008, Technical Corrigendum 1, XBD/TC1-2008/0074 [355] is applied.

POSIX.1-2008, Technical Corrigendum 2, XBD/TC2-2008/0081 [934] is applied.

*End of informative text.*

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