

# Hardcoded temporary directory detected

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`baselines/logger.py`: Potentially insecure use of a temporary file/directory

```
425     debug("shouldn't appear")
426     set_level(DEBUG)
427     debug("should appear")
428     dir = "/tmp/testlogging"
429     if os.path.exists(dir):
430         shutil.rmtree(dir)
431     configure(dir=dir)
```

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## Description:

It is risky to use a hardcoded interim directory. The application can be manipulated to conduct file operations on the incorrect file or to use a malicious file instead of the anticipated temporary file. Use [tempfile](#) instead.

Malicious individuals can guess the file name and write to the temporary file's directory. They basically hijack the temporary file by generating a symlink with the file's name before the application creates the file itself. This enables a malicious user to submit harmful data or force the software to do activities that affect the attacker's chosen files.

To safely generate temporary files, use the `tempfile.TemporaryFile` function. Aside from creating temporary files safely, it generates random filenames that cannot be anticipated and automatically cleans up the file.

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## Examples:

### Poor practice

```
with open('/tmp/abc', 'w') as f: # Insecure, Hard coded temporary directory
used
    f.write('stuff')
```

### Recommended

```
import tempfile

# Secure, temporary file is created using tempfile.TemporaryFile
# File will be deleted on close
with tempfile.TemporaryFile() as tmp:
    tmp.write('stuff')
```

## References:

- OWASP Top 10 2021 Category A04 - [Insecure Design](#)
  - [CWE 377](#) - Insecure Temporary File
  - [Python tempfile](#)
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