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## **Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'mkstemp.3' command**

### **\$ man mkstemp.3**

MKSTEMP(3)                    Linux Programmer's Manual                    MKSTEMP(3)

#### NAME

mkstemp, mkostemp, mkstemp, mkostemp - create a unique temporary file

#### SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdlib.h>

int mkstemp(char *template);

int mkostemp(char *template, int flags);

int mkstemp(char *template, int suffixlen);

int mkostemp(char *template, int suffixlen, int flags);
```

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

```
mkstemp():
    _XOPEN_SOURCE >= 500
    || /* Since glibc 2.12: */ _POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L
    || /* Glibc versions <= 2.19: */ _SVID_SOURCE || _BSD_SOURCE

mkostemp(): _GNU_SOURCE

mkstemp():
    /* Glibc since 2.19: */ _DEFAULT_SOURCE
    || /* Glibc versions <= 2.19: */ _SVID_SOURCE || _BSD_SOURCE

mkostemp(): _GNU_SOURCE
```

#### DESCRIPTION

The `mkstemp()` function generates a unique temporary filename from `template`, creates and opens the file, and returns an open file descriptor for the file.

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.

The file is created with permissions 0600, that is, read plus write for owner only. The returned file descriptor provides both read and write access to the file. The file is opened with the open(2) O\_EXCL flag, guaranteeing that the caller is the process that creates the file.

The mkostemp() function is like mkstemp(), with the difference that the following bits with the same meaning as for open(2) may be specified in flags: O\_APPEND, O\_CLOEXEC, and O\_SYNC. Note that when creating the file, mkostemp() includes the values O\_RDWR, O\_CREAT, and O\_EXCL in the flags argument given to open(2); including these values in the flags argument given to mkostemp() is unnecessary, and produces errors on some systems.

The mkstemp() function is like mkstemp(), except that the string in template contains a suffix of suffixlen characters. Thus, template is of the form prefixXXXXXXsuffix, and the string XXXXXX is modified as for mkstemp().

The mkostemps() function is to mkstemps() as mkostemp() is to mkstemp().

## RETURN VALUE

On success, these functions return the file descriptor of the temporary file. On error, -1 is returned, and errno is set appropriately.

## ERRORS

EEXIST Could not create a unique temporary filename. Now the contents of template are undefined.

EINVAL For mkstemp() and mkostemp(): The last six characters of template were not XXXXXX; now template is unchanged.

For mkstemps() and mkostemps(): template is less than (6 + suffixlen) characters long, or the last 6 characters before the suffix in template were not XXXXXX.

These functions may also fail with any of the errors described for

open(2).

## VERSIONS

mkstemp() is available since glibc 2.7. mkstemps() and mkostemps() are available since glibc 2.11.

## ATTRIBUTES

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

??

?Interface ? Attribute ? Value ?

??

?mkstemp(), mkostemp(), ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe ?

?mkstemps(), mkostemps() ? ? ?

??

## CONFORMING TO

mkstemp(): 4.3BSD, POSIX.1-2001.

mkstemps(): unstandardized, but appears on several other systems.

mkostemp() and mkostemps(): are glibc extensions.

## NOTES

In glibc versions 2.06 and earlier, the file is created with permissions 0666, that is, read and write for all users. This old behavior may be a security risk, especially since other UNIX flavors use 0600, and somebody might overlook this detail when porting programs. POSIX.1-2008 adds a requirement that the file be created with mode 0600.

More generally, the POSIX specification of mkstemp() does not say anything about file modes, so the application should make sure its file mode creation mask (see umask(2)) is set appropriately before calling mkstemp() (and mkostemp()).

## SEE ALSO

mkdtemp(3), mktemp(3), tempnam(3), tmpfile(3), tmpnam(3)

## COLOPHON

This page is part of release 5.10 of the Linux man-pages project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the

latest version of this page, can be found at

<https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.

GNU

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