



## ***Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'shm\_unlink.3' command***

### ***\$ man shm\_unlink.3***

SHM\_OPEN(3)            Linux Programmer's Manual            SHM\_OPEN(3)

#### NAME

shm\_open, shm\_unlink - create/open or unlink POSIX shared memory ob?

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#### SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/mman.h>
```

```
#include <sys/stat.h>     /* For mode constants */
```

```
#include <fcntl.h>       /* For O_* constants */
```

```
int shm_open(const char *name, int oflag, mode_t mode);
```

```
int shm_unlink(const char *name);
```

Link with -lrt.

#### DESCRIPTION

shm\_open() creates and opens a new, or opens an existing, POSIX shared memory object. A POSIX shared memory object is in effect a handle which can be used by unrelated processes to mmap(2) the same region of shared memory. The shm\_unlink() function performs the converse operation, removing an object previously created by shm\_open().

The operation of shm\_open() is analogous to that of open(2). name specifies the shared memory object to be created or opened. For portable use, a shared memory object should be identified by a name of the form /somenam; that is, a null-terminated string of up to NAME\_MAX (i.e., 255) characters consisting of an initial slash, followed by one or more characters, none of which are slashes.

oflag is a bit mask created by ORing together exactly one of O\_RDONLY or O\_RDWR and any of the other flags listed here:

#### O\_RDONLY

Open the object for read access. A shared memory object opened in this way can be mmap(2)ed only for read (PROT\_READ) access.

O\_RDWR Open the object for read-write access.

#### O\_CREAT

Create the shared memory object if it does not exist. The user and group ownership of the object are taken from the corresponding effective IDs of the calling process, and the object's permission bits are set according to the low-order 9 bits of mode, except that those bits set in the process file mode creation mask (see umask(2)) are cleared for the new object. A set of macro constants which can be used to define mode is listed in open(2). (Symbolic definitions of these constants can be obtained by including <sys/stat.h>.)

A new shared memory object initially has zero length; the size of the object can be set using ftruncate(2). The newly allocated bytes of a shared memory object are automatically initialized to 0.

O\_EXCL If O\_CREAT was also specified, and a shared memory object with the given name already exists, return an error. The check for the existence of the object, and its creation if it does not exist, are performed atomically.

#### O\_TRUNC

If the shared memory object already exists, truncate it to zero bytes.

Definitions of these flag values can be obtained by including <fcntl.h>.

On successful completion shm\_open() returns a new file descriptor referring to the shared memory object. This file descriptor is guaranteed to be the lowest-numbered file descriptor not previously opened within the process. The FD\_CLOEXEC flag (see fcntl(2)) is set for the

file descriptor.

The file descriptor is normally used in subsequent calls to `fcntl(2)` (for a newly created object) and `mmap(2)`. After a call to `mmap(2)` the file descriptor may be closed without affecting the memory mapping.

The operation of `shm_unlink()` is analogous to `unlink(2)`: it removes a shared memory object name, and, once all processes have unmapped the object, de-allocates and destroys the contents of the associated memory region. After a successful `shm_unlink()`, attempts to `shm_open()` an object with the same name fail (unless `O_CREAT` was specified, in which case a new, distinct object is created).

## RETURN VALUE

On success, `shm_open()` returns a file descriptor (a nonnegative integer). On failure, `shm_open()` returns -1. `shm_unlink()` returns 0 on success, or -1 on error.

## ERRORS

On failure, `errno` is set to indicate the cause of the error. Values which may appear in `errno` include the following:

**EACCES** Permission to `shm_unlink()` the shared memory object was denied.

**EACCES** Permission was denied to `shm_open()` name in the specified mode, or `O_TRUNC` was specified and the caller does not have write permission on the object.

**EEXIST** Both `O_CREAT` and `O_EXCL` were specified to `shm_open()` and the shared memory object specified by name already exists.

**EINVAL** The name argument to `shm_open()` was invalid.

**EMFILE** The per-process limit on the number of open file descriptors has been reached.

## ENAMETOOLONG

The length of name exceeds `PATH_MAX`.

**ENFILE** The system-wide limit on the total number of open files has been reached.

**ENOENT** An attempt was made to `shm_open()` a name that did not exist, and `O_CREAT` was not specified.

ENOENT An attempt was made to shm\_unlink() a name that does not exist.

## VERSIONS

These functions are provided in glibc 2.2 and later.

## ATTRIBUTES

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

attributes(7).

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?Interface ? Attribute ? Value ?

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?shm\_open(), shm\_unlink() ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe locale ?

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## CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008.

POSIX.1-2001 says that the group ownership of a newly created shared memory object is set to either the calling process's effective group ID or "a system default group ID". POSIX.1-2008 says that the group ownership may be set to either the calling process's effective group ID or, if the object is visible in the filesystem, the group ID of the parent directory.

## NOTES

POSIX leaves the behavior of the combination of O\_RDONLY and O\_TRUNC unspecified. On Linux, this will successfully truncate an existing shared memory object?this may not be so on other UNIX systems.

The POSIX shared memory object implementation on Linux makes use of a dedicated tmpfs(5) filesystem that is normally mounted under /dev/shm.

## EXAMPLES

The programs below employ POSIX shared memory and POSIX unnamed semaphores to exchange a piece of data. The "bounce" program (which must be run first) raises the case of a string that is placed into the shared memory by the "send" program. Once the data has been modified, the "send" program then prints the contents of the modified shared memory. An example execution of the two programs is the following:

```

$ ./pshm_ucase_bounce /myshm &
[1] 270171
$ ./pshm_ucase_send /myshm hello
HELLO

```

Further detail about these programs is provided below.

Program source: pshm\_ucase.h

The following header file is included by both programs below. Its primary purpose is to define a structure that will be imposed on the memory object that is shared between the two programs.

```

#include <sys/mman.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <semaphore.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#define errExit(msg) do { perror(msg); exit(EXIT_FAILURE); \
    } while (0)
#define BUF_SIZE 1024 /* Maximum size for exchanged string */
/* Define a structure that will be imposed on the shared
memory object */
struct shmbuf {
    sem_t sem1; /* POSIX unnamed semaphore */
    sem_t sem2; /* POSIX unnamed semaphore */
    size_t cnt; /* Number of bytes used in 'buf' */
    char buf[BUF_SIZE]; /* Data being transferred */
};

```

Program source: pshm\_ucase\_bounce.c

The "bounce" program creates a new shared memory object with the name given in its command-line argument and sizes the object to match the size of the shmbuf structure defined in the header file. It then maps the object into the process's address space, and initializes two POSIX semaphores inside the object to 0.

After the "send" program has posted the first of the semaphores, the "bounce" program upper cases the data that has been placed in the memory by the "send" program and then posts the second semaphore to tell the "send" program that it may now access the shared memory.

```
/* pshm_ucase_bounce.c
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*/
#include <ctype.h>
#include "pshm_ucase.h"
int
main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    if (argc != 2) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Usage: %s /shm-path\n", argv[0]);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
    char *shmpath = argv[1];
    /* Create shared memory object and set its size to the size
       of our structure */
    int fd = shm_open(shmpath, O_CREAT | O_EXCL | O_RDWR,
                     S_IRUSR | S_IWUSR);
    if (fd == -1)
        errExit("shm_open");
    if (ftruncate(fd, sizeof(struct shmbuf)) == -1)
        errExit("ftruncate");
    /* Map the object into the caller's address space */
    struct shmbuf *shmp = mmap(NULL, sizeof(*shmp),
                               PROT_READ | PROT_WRITE,
                               MAP_SHARED, fd, 0);
    if (shmp == MAP_FAILED)
        errExit("mmap");
    /* Initialize semaphores as process-shared, with value 0 */
    if (sem_init(&shmp->sem1, 1, 0) == -1)
```

```

    errExit("sem_init-sem1");
if (sem_init(&shmp->sem2, 1, 0) == -1)
    errExit("sem_init-sem2");
/* Wait for 'sem1' to be posted by peer before touching
shared memory */
if (sem_wait(&shmp->sem1) == -1)
    errExit("sem_wait");
/* Convert data in shared memory into upper case */
for (int j = 0; j < shmp->cnt; j++)
    shmp->buf[j] = toupper((unsigned char) shmp->buf[j]);
/* Post 'sem2' to tell the to tell peer that it can now
access the modified data in shared memory */
if (sem_post(&shmp->sem2) == -1)
    errExit("sem_post");
/* Unlink the shared memory object. Even if the peer process
is still using the object, this is okay. The object will
be removed only after all open references are closed. */
shm_unlink(shmpath);
exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}

```

Program source: pshm\_ucase\_send.c

The "send" program takes two command-line arguments: the pathname of a shared memory object previously created by the "bounce" program and a string that is to be copied into that object.

The program opens the shared memory object and maps the object into its address space. It then copies the data specified in its second argument into the shared memory, and posts the first semaphore, which tells the "bounce" program that it can now access that data. After the "bounce" program posts the second semaphore, the "send" program prints the contents of the shared memory on standard output.

```

/* pshm_ucase_send.c

```

```

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```

```

*/

```

```

#include <string.h>
#include "pshm_ucase.h"
int
main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    if (argc != 3) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Usage: %s /shm-path string\n", argv[0]);
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
    char *shmpath = argv[1];
    char *string = argv[2];
    size_t len = strlen(string);
    if (len > BUF_SIZE) {
        fprintf(stderr, "String is too long\n");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
    /* Open the existing shared memory object and map it
       into the caller's address space */
    int fd = shm_open(shmpath, O_RDWR, 0);
    if (fd == -1)
        errExit("shm_open");
    struct shmbuf *shmp = mmap(NULL, sizeof(*shmp),
                               PROT_READ | PROT_WRITE,
                               MAP_SHARED, fd, 0);
    if (shmp == MAP_FAILED)
        errExit("mmap");
    /* Copy data into the shared memory object */
    shmp->cnt = len;
    memcpy(&shmp->buf, string, len);
    /* Tell peer that it can now access shared memory */
    if (sem_post(&shmp->sem1) == -1)
        errExit("sem_post");
    /* Wait until peer says that it has finished accessing

```



```
the shared memory */
if (sem_wait(&shmp->sem2) == -1)
    errExit("sem_wait");
/* Write modified data in shared memory to standard output */
write(STDOUT_FILENO, &shmp->buf, len);
write(STDOUT_FILENO, "\n", 1);
exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}
```

#### SEE ALSO

close(2), fchmod(2), fchown(2), fcntl(2), fstat(2), ftruncate(2),  
memfd\_create(2), mmap(2), open(2), umask(2), shm\_overview(7)

#### 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/>.

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2020-11-01

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