NAME

remove − remove a file or directory

SYNOPSIS

#include <stdio.h>

int remove(const char ****pathname*);**

DESCRIPTION

remove() deletes a name from the filesystem. It calls **unlink**(2) for files, and **rmdir**(2) for directories.

If the removed name was the last link to a file and no processes have the file open, the file is deleted and the space it was using is made available for reuse.

If the name was the last link to a file, but any processes still have the file open, the file will remain in existence until the last file descriptor referring to it is closed.

If the name referred to a symbolic link, the link is removed.

If the name referred to a socket, FIFO, or device, the name is removed, but processes which have the object open may continue to use it.

RETURN VALUE

On success, zero is returned. On error, −1 is returned, and *errno* is set appropriately.

ERRORS

The errors that occur are those for **unlink**(2) and **rmdir**(2).

ATTRIBUTES

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

Interface	Attribute	Value
remove()	Thread safety	MT-Safe

CONFORMING TO

POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, C89, C99, 4.3BSD.

BUGS

Infelicities in the protocol underlying NFS can cause the unexpected disappearance of files which are still being used.

SEE ALSO

rm(1), **unlink**(1), **link**(2), **mknod**(2), **open**(2), **rename**(2), **rmdir**(2), **unlink**(2), **mkfifo**(3), **symlink**(7)

COLOPHON

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