

NAME

tempfile – create a temporary file in a safe manner

SYNOPSIS

tempfile [-d DIR] [-p STRING] [-s STRING] [-m MODE] [-n FILE] [--directory=DIR] [--prefix=STRING] [--suffix=STRING] [--mode=MODE] [--name=FILE] [--help] [--version]

DESCRIPTION

tempfile creates a temporary file in a safe manner. It uses **mkstemp**(3) to choose the name and opens it with O_RDWR | O_CREAT | O_EXCL. The filename is printed on standard output.

The directory in which to create the file might be searched for in this order:

- a) In case the environment variable **TMPDIR** exists and contains the name of an appropriate directory, that is used.
- b) Otherwise, if the *--directory* argument is specified and appropriate, it is used.
- c) Otherwise, *P_tmpdir* (as defined in *<stdio.h>*) is used when appropriate.
- d) Finally an implementation-defined directory (*/tmp*) may be used.

OPTIONS

-d, --directory *DIR*

Place the file in *DIR*.

-m, --mode *MODE*

Open the file with *MODE* instead of 0600.

-n, --name *FILE*

Use *FILE* for the name instead of **tempnam**(3). The options *-d*, *-p*, and *-s* are ignored if this option is given.

-p, --prefix *STRING*

Use up to five letters of *STRING* to generate the name.

-s, --suffix *STRING*

Generate the file with *STRING* as the suffix.

--help Print a usage message on standard output and exit successfully.

--version

Print version information on standard output and exit successfully.

RETURN VALUES

An exit status of 0 means the temporary file was created successfully. Any other exit status indicates an error.

BUGS

Exclusive creation is not guaranteed when creating files on NFS partitions. **tempfile** cannot make temporary directories. **tempfile** is deprecated; you should use **mktemp**(1) instead.

EXAMPLE

```
#!/bin/sh
#[...]
t=$(tempfile) || exit
trap "rm -f -- '$t'" EXIT
#[...]
rm -f -- "$t"
trap - EXIT
exit
```

SEE ALSO

tempnam(3), **mktemp**(1)