

opendir/readdir(3)

**NAME**  
opendir – open a directory // readdir – read a directory

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <dirent.h>
```

```
DIR *opendir(const char *name);
```

```
struct dirent *readdir(DIR *dirp, struct dirent *entry, struct dirent **result);
```

**DESCRIPTION opendir**

The **opendir()** function opens a directory stream corresponding to the directory *name*, and returns a pointer to the directory stream. The stream is positioned at the first entry in the directory.

**RETURN VALUE**

The **opendir()** function returns a pointer to the directory stream or NULL if an error occurred.

**DESCRIPTION readdir**

The **readdir()** function returns a pointer to a dirent structure representing the next directory entry in the directory stream pointed to by *dirp*. It returns NULL on reaching the end-of-file or if an error occurred.

**DESCRIPTION readdir\_r**

The **readdir\_r()** function initializes the structure referenced by *entry* and stores a pointer to this structure in *result*. On successful return, the pointer returned at *\*result* will have the same value as the argument *entry*. Upon reaching the end of the directory stream, this pointer will have the value NULL.

The data returned by **readdir()** is overwritten by subsequent calls to **readdir()** for the same directory stream.

The *dirent* structure is defined as follows:

```
struct dirent {
    long d_ino; /* inode number */
    off_t d_off; /* offset to the next dirent */
    unsigned short d_reclen; /* length of this record */
    unsigned char d_type; /* type of file */
    char d_name[256]; /* filename */
};
```

**RETURN VALUE**

The **readdir()** function returns a pointer to a dirent structure, or NULL if an error occurs or end-of-file is reached.

**readdir\_r()** returns 0 if successful or an error number to indicate failure.

**ERRORS**

**EACCES**  
Permission denied.

**ENOENT**  
Directory does not exist or *name* is an empty string.

**ENOTDIR**  
*name* is not a directory.

opendir/readdir(3)

**NAME**  
stat, lstat – get file status

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int stat(const char *path, struct stat *buf);
int lstat(const char *path, struct stat *buf);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

These functions return information about the specified file. You do not need any access rights to the file to get this information but you need search rights to all directories named in the path leading to the file.

**stat** stats the file pointed to by *path* and files in *buf*.

**lstat** is identical to **stat**, except in the case of a symbolic link, where the link itself is stat-ed, not the file that it refers to.

They all return a *stat* structure, which contains the following fields:

```
struct stat {
    dev_t st_dev; /* device */
    ino_t st_ino; /* inode */
    mode_t st_mode; /* protection */
    nlink_t st_nlink; /* number of hard links */
    uid_t st_uid; /* user ID of owner */
    gid_t st_gid; /* group ID of owner */
    dev_t st_rdev; /* device type (if mode device) */
    off_t st_size; /* total size, in bytes */
    blksize_t st_blksize; /* blocksize for filesystem I/O */
    blkcnt_t st_blocks; /* number of blocks allocated */
    time_t st_atime; /* time of last access */
    time_t st_atime; /* time of last modification */
    time_t st_mtime; /* time of last status change */
    time_t st_ctime; /* time of last status change */
};
```

The value *st\_size* gives the size of the file (if it is a regular file or a symlink) in bytes. The size of a symlink is the length of the pathname it contains, without trailing NUL.

The following POSIX macros are defined to check the file type in the field *st\_mode*:

S\_ISREG(m) is it a regular file?

S\_ISDIR(m) directory?

**RETURN VALUE**

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

**ERRORS**

**EACCES**  
Search permission is denied for one of the directories in the path prefix of *path*.

**ENOENT**  
A component of *path* does not exist, or *path* is an empty string.

**ENOTDIR**  
A component of the path prefix of *path* is not a directory.

stat(2)

**NAME**  
stat – get file status

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
int stat(const char *path, struct stat *buf);
int lstat(const char *path, struct stat *buf);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

These functions return information about the specified file. You do not need any access rights to the file to get this information but you need search rights to all directories named in the path leading to the file.

**stat** stats the file pointed to by *path* and files in *buf*.

**lstat** is identical to **stat**, except in the case of a symbolic link, where the link itself is stat-ed, not the file that it refers to.

They all return a *stat* structure, which contains the following fields:

```
struct stat {
    dev_t st_dev; /* device */
    ino_t st_ino; /* inode */
    mode_t st_mode; /* protection */
    nlink_t st_nlink; /* number of hard links */
    uid_t st_uid; /* user ID of owner */
    gid_t st_gid; /* group ID of owner */
    dev_t st_rdev; /* device type (if mode device) */
    off_t st_size; /* total size, in bytes */
    blksize_t st_blksize; /* blocksize for filesystem I/O */
    blkcnt_t st_blocks; /* number of blocks allocated */
    time_t st_atime; /* time of last access */
    time_t st_atime; /* time of last modification */
    time_t st_mtime; /* time of last status change */
    time_t st_ctime; /* time of last status change */
};
```

The value *st\_size* gives the size of the file (if it is a regular file or a symlink) in bytes. The size of a symlink is the length of the pathname it contains, without trailing NUL.

**RETURN VALUE**

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

**ERRORS**

**EACCES**  
Search permission is denied for one of the directories in the path prefix of *path*.

**ENOENT**  
A component of *path* does not exist, or *path* is an empty string.

**ENOTDIR**  
A component of the path prefix of *path* is not a directory.