

## NAME

`tmpnam` — create a name for a temporary file

## SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
char *tmpnam (s)  
char *s;
```

## DESCRIPTION

*Tmpnam* generates a file name that can safely be used for a temporary file. If *(int)s* is zero, *tmpnam* leaves its result in an internal static area and returns a pointer to that area. The next call to *tmpnam* will destroy the contents of the area. If *(int)s* is nonzero, *s* is assumed to be the address of an array of at least `L_tmpnam` bytes; *tmpnam* places its result in that array and returns *s* as its value.

*Tmpnam* generates a different file name each time it is called.

Files created using *tmpnam* and either *fopen* or *creat* are only temporary in the sense that they reside in a directory intended for temporary use, and their names are unique. It is the user's responsibility to use *unlink* to remove the file when its use is ended.

## SEE ALSO

`creat(2)`, `unlink(2)`, `fopen(3S)`, `mktemp(3C)`

## BUGS

If called more than 17,576 times in a single process, *tmpnam* will start recycling previously used names.

Between the time a file name is created and the file is opened, it is possible for some other process to create a file with the same name. This can never happen if that other process is using *tmpnam* or *mktemp*, and the file names are chosen so as to render duplication by other means unlikely.