NAME

alarm - set signal timer alarm

LIBRARY

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

#include <unistd.h>

unsigned int
alarm(*unsigned int seconds*);

DESCRIPTION

This interface is made obsolete by setitimer(2).

The **alarm**() function sets a timer to deliver the signal SIGALRM to the calling process after the specified number of *seconds*. If an alarm has already been set with **alarm**() but has not been delivered, another call to **alarm**() will supersede the prior call. The request **alarm**(*0*) voids the current alarm and the signal SIGALRM will not be delivered.

Due to setitimer(2) restriction the maximum number of *seconds* allowed is 100000000.

RETURN VALUES

The return value of **alarm**() is the amount of time left on the timer from a previous call to **alarm**(). If no alarm is currently set, the return value is 0.

SEE ALSO

setitimer(2), sigaction(2), sigsuspend(2), signal(3), sleep(3), ualarm(3), usleep(3)

HISTORY

An **alarm**() system call appeared in the Programmer's Workbench (PWB/UNIX) and was ported to Version 7 AT&T UNIX. For 4.1cBSD, it was reimplemented as a wrapper around the setitimer(2) system call.