

**NAME**

**alloca** - memory allocator

**LIBRARY**

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <stdlib.h>
```

```
void *
```

```
alloca(size_t size);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **alloca()** function allocates *size* bytes of space in the stack frame of the caller. This temporary space is automatically freed on return.

**RETURN VALUES**

The **alloca()** function returns a pointer to the beginning of the allocated space.

**SEE ALSO**

brk(2), calloc(3), getpagesize(3), malloc(3), realloc(3)

**HISTORY**

The **alloca()** function appeared in Version 7 AT&T UNIX/32V.

**BUGS**

The **alloca()** function is machine and compiler dependent; its use is discouraged.

The **alloca()** function is slightly unsafe because it cannot ensure that the pointer returned points to a valid and usable block of memory. The allocation made may exceed the bounds of the stack, or even go further into other objects in memory, and **alloca()** cannot determine such an error. Avoid **alloca()** with large unbounded allocations.