

NAME

bzero, **explicit_bzero** - write zeroes to a byte string

LIBRARY

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

#include <strings.h>

void

bzero(*void *b*, *size_t len*);

void

explicit_bzero(*void *b*, *size_t len*);

DESCRIPTION

The **bzero**() function writes *len* zero bytes to the string *b*. If *len* is zero, **bzero**() does nothing.

The **explicit_bzero**() variant behaves the same, but will not be removed by a compiler's dead store optimization pass, making it useful for clearing sensitive memory such as a password.

SEE ALSO

memset(3), swab(3)

HISTORY

A **bzero**() function appeared in 4.3BSD. Its prototype existed previously in <string.h> before it was moved to <strings.h> for IEEE Std 1003.1-2001 ("POSIX.1") compliance.

The **explicit_bzero**() function first appeared in OpenBSD 5.5 and FreeBSD 11.0.

IEEE Std 1003.1-2008 ("POSIX.1") removes the specification of **bzero**() and it is marked as LEGACY in IEEE Std 1003.1-2004 ("POSIX.1"). For portability with other systems new programs should use memset(3).