

**NAME**

**ether\_gen\_addr** - generate an arbitrary MAC address for use

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/socket.h>
#include <net/if.h>
#include <net/if_var.h>
#include <net/ethernet.h>
```

*void*

```
ether_gen_addr(struct ifnet *ifp, struct ether_addr *hwaddr);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **ether\_gen\_addr**() function generates an arbitrary MAC address for use by an ethernet interface that does not have an assigned address.

By default, **ether\_gen\_addr** attempts to generate a stable MAC address using the hostid of the jail that the *ifp* is being added to. During early boot, the hostid may not be set on machines that haven't yet populated */etc/hostid*, or on machines that do not use loader(8).

**ether\_gen\_addr** can fail to derive a MAC address due to memory allocation failure, or because the hostid has not been populated. In these cases, a locally-administered unicast MAC address will be randomly generated and returned via the *hwaddr* parameter.

If **ether\_gen\_addr** succeeds, then it will return a MAC address in the FreeBSD Foundation OUI, "58:9c:fc", via the *hwaddr* parameter.

**AUTHORS**

This manual page was written by Kyle Evans <kevans@FreeBSD.org>.