

**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).