

**NAME**

**pam\_authenticate** - perform authentication within the PAM framework

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <sys/types.h>
```

```
#include <security/pam_appl.h>
```

*int*

```
pam_authenticate(pam_handle_t *pamh, int flags);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The **pam\_authenticate**(*)* function attempts to authenticate the user associated with the pam context specified by the *pamh* argument.

The application is free to call **pam\_authenticate**(*)* as many times as it wishes, but some modules may maintain an internal retry counter and return PAM\_MAXTRIES when it exceeds some preset or hardcoded limit.

The *flags* argument is the binary or of zero or more of the following values:

PAM\_SILENT        Do not emit any messages.

PAM\_DISALLOW\_NULL\_AUTH Tok  
                  Fail if the user's authentication token is null.

If any other bits are set, **pam\_authenticate**(*)* will return PAM\_BAD\_CONSTANT.

**RETURN VALUES**

The **pam\_authenticate**(*)* function returns one of the following values:

[PAM\_SUCCESS]    Success.

[PAM\_ABORT]      General failure.

[PAM\_AUTHINFO\_UNAVAIL]  
                  Authentication information is unavailable.

[PAM\_AUTH\_ERR]   Authentication error.

[PAM\_BAD\_CONSTANT]

Bad constant.

[PAM\_BUF\_ERR] Memory buffer error.

[PAM\_CONV\_ERR] Conversation failure.

[PAM\_CRED\_INSUFFICIENT]  
Insufficient credentials.

[PAM\_MAXTRIES] Maximum number of tries exceeded.

[PAM\_PERM\_DENIED]  
Permission denied.

[PAM\_SERVICE\_ERR]  
Error in service module.

[PAM\_SYSTEM\_ERR]  
System error.

[PAM\_USER\_UNKNOWN]  
Unknown user.

## SEE ALSO

pam(3), pam\_strerror(3)

## STANDARDS

*X/Open Single Sign-On Service (XSSO) - Pluggable Authentication Modules*, June 1997.

## AUTHORS

The **pam\_authenticate()** function and this manual page were developed for the FreeBSD Project by ThinkSec AS and Network Associates Laboratories, the Security Research Division of Network Associates, Inc. under DARPA/SPAWAR contract N66001-01-C-8035 ("CBOSS"), as part of the DARPA CHATS research program.

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