NAME

dirname - extract the directory part of a pathname

SYNOPSIS

#include <libgen.h>

char *
dirname(*char *path*);

DESCRIPTION

The **dirname**() function is the converse of basename(3); it returns a pointer to the parent directory of the pathname pointed to by *path*. Any trailing '/' characters are not counted as part of the directory name.

IMPLEMENTATION NOTES

This implementation of **dirname**() uses the buffer provided by the caller to store the resulting parent directory. Other vendor implementations may return a pointer to internal storage space instead. The advantage of the former approach is that it ensures thread-safety, while also placing no upper limit on the supported length of the pathname.

RETURN VALUES

If *path* is a null pointer, the empty string, or contains no '/' characters, **dirname**() returns a pointer to the string ".", signifying the current directory. Otherwise, it returns a pointer to the parent directory of *path*.

SEE ALSO

basename(1), dirname(1), basename(3)

STANDARDS

The **dirname**() function conforms to X/Open Portability Guide Issue 4, Version 2 ("XPG4.2").

HISTORY

The **dirname**() function first appeared in OpenBSD 2.2 and FreeBSD 4.2.

In FreeBSD 12.0, this function was reimplemented to store its result in the provided input buffer.

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