NAME

ftok - create IPC identifier from path name

LIBRARY

Standard C Library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

#include <sys/ipc.h>

key_t
ftok(*const char *path*, *int id*);

DESCRIPTION

The **ftok**() function attempts to create a unique key suitable for use with the msgget(2), semget(2) and shmget(2) functions given the *path* of an existing file and a user-selectable *id*.

The specified *path* must specify an existing file that is accessible to the calling process or the call will fail. Also, note that links to files will return the same key, given the same *id*.

RETURN VALUES

The **ftok**() function will return -1 if *path* does not exist or if it cannot be accessed by the calling process.

SEE ALSO

msgget(2), semget(2), shmget(2)

HISTORY

The **ftok**() function originates with System V and is typically used by programs that use the System V IPC routines.

AUTHORS

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BUGS

The returned key is computed based on the device minor number and inode of the specified *path* in combination with the lower 8 bits of the given *id*. Thus it is quite possible for the routine to return duplicate keys.