NAME

fnmatch – match filename or path name

SYNOPSIS

#include <fnmatch.h>

int fnmatch(const char **pattern*, **const char** **string*, **int** *flags***);**

MT-LEVEL

MT-Safe

DESCRIPTION

The **fnmatch( )** function matches patterns as described on the **fnmatch**(5) manual page. It checks the *string* argument to see if it matches the *pattern* argument.

The *flags* argument modifies the interpretation of *pattern* and *string*. It is the bitwise inclusive OR of zero or more of the following flags defined in the header **<fnmatch.h>**.

FNM_PATHNAME
If set, a slash (**/**) character in *string* will be explicitly matched by a slash in *pattern*; it will not be matched by either the asterisk (*) or question-mark (**?**) special characters, nor by a bracket (**[ ]**) expression.

If not set, the slash character is treated as an ordinary character.

FNM_NOESCAPE
If not set, a backslash character (\) in *pattern* followed by any other character will match that second character in *string*. In particular, "\\" will match a backslash in *string*.

If set, a backslash character will be treated as an ordinary character.

FNM_PERIOD
If set, a leading period in *string* will match a period in *pattern*; where the location of ''leading'' is indicated by the value of **FNM_PATHNAME**:

- If **FNM_PATHNAME** is set, a period is ''leading'' if it is the first character in *string* or if it immediately follows a slash.
- If **FNM_PATHNAME** is not set, a period is ''leading'' only if it is the first character of *string*.

If not set, no special restrictions are placed on matching a period.

RETURN VALUES

The following values are returned:

0
string matches the pattern specified by *pattern*.

FNM_NOMATCH
there is no match. **FNM_NOMATCH** is defined in the header **<fnmatch.h>**.

non-zero
an error has occurred.

USAGE

The **fnmatch( )** function has two major uses. It could be used by an application or utility that needs to read a directory and apply a pattern against each entry. The **find**(1) utility is an example of this. It can also be used by the **pax** utility to process its *pattern* operands, or by applications that need to match strings in a similar manner.

The name **fnmatch( )** is intended to imply *filename* match, rather than *pathname* match. The default action of this function is to match filenames, rather than path names, since it gives no special significance to the slash character. With the **FNM_PATHNAME** flag, **fnmatch( )** does match path names, but without tilde expansion, parameter expansion, or special treatment for period at the beginning of a filename.

SEE ALSO

find(1), **glob**(3C), **wordexp**(3C), **fnmatch**(5)