

NAME

`ftime` – return date and time

SYNOPSIS

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

```
int ftime(struct timeb *tp);
```

DESCRIPTION

This function returns the current time as seconds and milliseconds since the Epoch, 1970-01-01 00:00:00 +0000 (UTC). The time is returned in `tp`, which is declared as follows:

```
struct timeb {
    time_t          time;
    unsigned short millitm;
    short           timezone;
    short           dstflag;
};
```

Here `time` is the number of seconds since the Epoch, and `millitm` is the number of milliseconds since `time` seconds since the Epoch. The `timezone` field is the local timezone measured in minutes of time west of Greenwich (with a negative value indicating minutes east of Greenwich). The `dstflag` field is a flag that, if nonzero, indicates that Daylight Saving time applies locally during the appropriate part of the year.

POSIX.1-2001 says that the contents of the `timezone` and `dstflag` fields are unspecified; avoid relying on them.

RETURN VALUE

This function always returns 0. (POSIX.1-2001 specifies, and some systems document, a `-1` error return.)

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see [attributes\(7\)](#).

Interface	Attribute	Value
<code>ftime()</code>	Thread safety	MT-Safe

CONFORMING TO

4.2BSD, POSIX.1-2001. POSIX.1-2008 removes the specification of `ftime()`.

This function is obsolete. Don't use it. If the time in seconds suffices, [time\(2\)](#) can be used; [gettimeofday\(2\)](#) gives microseconds; [clock_gettime\(2\)](#) gives nanoseconds but is not as widely available.

BUGS

Early glibc2 is buggy and returns 0 in the `millitm` field; glibc 2.1.1 is correct again.

SEE ALSO

[gettimeofday\(2\)](#), [time\(2\)](#)

COLOPHON

This page is part of release 4.16 of the Linux *man-pages* project. A description of the project, information about reporting bugs, and the latest version of this page, can be found at <https://www.kernel.org/doc/man-pages/>.