

explain_gethostbyname(3)

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NAMEexplain_gethostbyname – explain *gethostbyname*(3) errors**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <libexplain/gethostbyname.h>

const char *explain_gethostbyname(const char *name);
const char *explain_errno_gethostbyname(int errnum, const char *name);
void explain_message_gethostbyname(char *message, int message_size, const char *name);
void explain_message_errno_gethostbyname(char *message, int message_size, int errnum, const char *name);
```

DESCRIPTION

These functions may be used to obtain explanations for errors returned by the *gethostbyname*(3) system call.

explain_gethostbyname

```
const char *explain_gethostbyname(const char *name);
```

The **explain_gethostbyname** function is used to obtain an explanation of an error returned by the *gethostbyname*(3) system call. The least the message will contain is the value of `strerror(errno)`, but usually it will do much better, and indicate the underlying cause in more detail.

The *errno* global variable will be used to obtain the error value to be decoded.

name The original name, exactly as passed to the *gethostbyname*(3) system call.

Returns: The message explaining the error. This message buffer is shared by all libexplain functions which do not supply a buffer in their argument list. This will be overwritten by the next call to any libexplain function which shares this buffer, including other threads.

Note: This function is **not** thread safe, because it shares a return buffer across all threads, and many other functions in this library.

Example: This function is intended to be used in a fashion similar to the following example:

```
struct hostent *result = gethostbyname(name);
if (!result)
{
    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", explain_gethostbyname(name));
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}
```

The above code example is available pre-packaged as the *explain_gethostbyname_or_die*(3) function.

explain_errno_gethostbyname

```
const char *explain_errno_gethostbyname(int errnum, const char *name);
```

The **explain_errno_gethostbyname** function is used to obtain an explanation of an error returned by the *gethostbyname*(3) system call. The least the message will contain is the value of `strerror(errno)`, but usually it will do much better, and indicate the underlying cause in more detail.

errnum The error value to be decoded, usually obtained from the *errno* global variable just before this function is called. This is necessary if you need to call **any** code between the system call to be explained and this function, because many libc functions will alter the value of *errno*.

name The original name, exactly as passed to the *gethostbyname*(3) system call.

Returns: The message explaining the error. This message buffer is shared by all libexplain functions which do not supply a buffer in their argument list. This will be overwritten by the next call to any libexplain function which shares this buffer, including other threads.

Note: This function is **not** thread safe, because it shares a return buffer across all threads, and many other functions in this library.

Example: This function is intended to be used in a fashion similar to the following example:

```
struct hostent *result = gethostbyname(name);
if (!result)
{
    int err = errnum;
    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", explain_errno_gethostbyname(err,
```



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```

        name));
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

```

The above code example is available pre-packaged as the *explain_gethostbyname_or_die(3)* function.

explain_message_gethostbyname

```
void explain_message_gethostbyname(char *message, int message_size, const char *name);
```

The **explain_message_gethostbyname** function is used to obtain an explanation of an error returned by the *gethostbyname(3)* system call. The least the message will contain is the value of *strerror(errno)*, but usually it will do much better, and indicate the underlying cause in more detail.

The *errno* global variable will be used to obtain the error value to be decoded.

message The location in which to store the returned message. If a suitable message return buffer is supplied, this function is thread safe.

message_size

The size in bytes of the location in which to store the returned message.

name The original name, exactly as passed to the *gethostbyname(3)* system call.

Example: This function is intended to be used in a fashion similar to the following example:

```

struct hostent *result = gethostbyname(name);
if (!result)
{
    char message[3000];
    explain_message_gethostbyname(message, sizeof(message),
    name);
    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", message);
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}

```

The above code example is available pre-packaged as the *explain_gethostbyname_or_die(3)* function.

explain_message_errno_gethostbyname

```
void explain_message_errno_gethostbyname(char *message, int message_size, int errnum, const char *name);
```

The **explain_message_errno_gethostbyname** function is used to obtain an explanation of an error returned by the *gethostbyname(3)* system call. The least the message will contain is the value of *strerror(errno)*, but usually it will do much better, and indicate the underlying cause in more detail.

message The location in which to store the returned message. If a suitable message return buffer is supplied, this function is thread safe.

message_size

The size in bytes of the location in which to store the returned message.

errnum The error value to be decoded, usually obtained from the *errno* global variable just before this function is called. This is necessary if you need to call **any** code between the system call to be explained and this function, because many libc functions will alter the value of *errno*.

name The original name, exactly as passed to the *gethostbyname(3)* system call.

Example: This function is intended to be used in a fashion similar to the following example:

```

struct hostent *result = gethostbyname(name);
if (!result)
{
    int err = errno;
    char message[3000];
    explain_message_errno_gethostbyname(message, sizeof(message), err, name);
    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", message);
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}

```

The above code example is available pre-packaged as the *explain_gethostbyname_or_die(3)* function.



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SEE ALSO

gethostbyname(3)

get host address given host name

explain_gethostbyname_or_die(3)

get host address given host name and report errors

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