NAME

explain_printf − explain *printf*(3) errors

SYNOPSIS

#include <libexplain/printf.h>

const char *explain_printf(const char *format);
const char *explain_errno_printf(int errnum, const char *format);
void explain_message_printf(char *message, int message_size, const char *format);
void explain_message_errno_printf(char *message, int message_size, int errnum, const char *format);

DESCRIPTION

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

explain_printf

const char *explain_printf(const char *format);

The **explain_printf** function is used to obtain an explanation of an error returned by the *printf*(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.

format The original format, exactly as passed to the *printf*(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:

```
errno = 0;
int result = printf(format);
if (result < 0 && errno != 0)
{
    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", explain_printf(format));
     exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}
```

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

explain_errno_printf

const char *explain_errno_printf(int errnum, const char *format);

The **explain_errno_printf** function is used to obtain an explanation of an error returned by the *printf*(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*.

format The original format, exactly as passed to the *printf*(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:

```
errno = 0;
int result = printf(format);
if (result < 0 && errno != 0)
{
    int err = errno;
   fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", explain_errno_printf(err, format));
```

```
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
```

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

explain_message_printf

void explain_message_printf(char *message, int message_size, const char *format);

The **explain_message_printf** function is used to obtain an explanation of an error returned by the *printf*(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.

format The original format, exactly as passed to the *printf*(3) system call.

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

```
errno = 0;
int result = printf(format);
if (result < 0 && errno != 0)
{
    char message[3000];
   explain_message_printf(message, sizeof(message), format);
    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", message);
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}
```

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

explain_message_errno_printf

void explain_message_errno_printf(char *message, int message_size, int errnum, const char *format);

The **explain_message_errno_printf** function is used to obtain an explanation of an error returned by the *printf*(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*.

format The original format, exactly as passed to the *printf*(3) system call.

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

```
errno = 0;
int result = printf(format);
if (result < 0 && errno != 0)
{
    int err = errno;
    char message[3000];
   explain_message_errno_printf(message, sizeof(message), err,
   format);
    fprintf(stderr, "%s\n", message);
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}
```

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

SEE ALSO

printf(3) formatted output conversion

explain_printf_or_die(3)
formatted output conversion and report errors

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