

NAME

pam_authenticate – authenticate a user

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <security/pam_appl.h>
```

```
int pam_authenticate(pam_handle_t *pamh, int flags);
```

DESCRIPTION**pam_authenticate**

Use this function to authenticate an applicant user. It is linked *dynamically* to the authentication modules by **Linux-PAM**. It is the task of these module to perform such an authentication. The specific nature of the authentication is not the concern of the application.

Following successful completion, the **name** of the authenticated user will be present in the **Linux-PAM** item **PAM_USER**. This item may be recovered with a call to **pam_get_item(3)**.

The application developer should note that the modules may request that the user enter their username via the conversation mechanism (see **pam_start(3)**). Should this be the case, the user-prompt string can be set via the **PAM_USER_PROMPT** item (see **pam_set_item(3)**).

RETURN VALUE

On success **PAM_SUCCESS** is returned. All other returns should be considered authentication failures and will be *delayed* by an amount specified with prior calls to **pam_fail_delay(3)**. Specific failures that demand special attention are the following:

PAM_ABORT

the application should exit immediately. Of course, **pam_end(3)** should be called first.

PAM_MAXTRIES

the application has tried too many times to authenticate the user, authentication should not be attempted again.

ERRORS

May be translated to text with **pam_strerror(3)**.

CONFORMING TO

DCE-RFC 86.0, October 1995.

BUGS

none known.

SEE ALSO

pam_start(3), **pam_get_item(3)**, **pam_fail_delay(3)** and **pam_strerror(3)**.

Also, see the three **Linux-PAM** Guides, for **System administrators**, **module developers**, and **application developers**.