

## IEEE Standards Interpretation for IEEE Std 1003.1™-1990 IEEE Standard for Information Technology--Portable Operating System Interfaces (POSIX®)

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### Interpretation Request #78

**Topic:** opendir() error return value **Relevant Sections:** 5.1.2.4

Standard:1003.1-1996 (second edition 1996-07-12) SubSection:5.1.2.4 (line 118) function shall return -1 and set errno to the corresponding value Question: The following sources document the return value as NULL: 1003.1-1996 subsection 5.1.2.3 line 94 1003.1b-1993 subsection 5.1.2.3 line 74 1003.1b-1993 subsection 5.1.2.4 line 96 2003.1-1992 subsection 5.1.2.2.4 line 253 Does line 118 of std 1003.1-1996 subsection 5.1.2.4 indicate a new contradiction or a typographical error?

Suggested Correction: The clause should be changed to: function shall return NULL and set errno to the corresponding value

### Interpretation Response

This is a typographical error. The published IEEE Std 1003.1-1996 is inconsistent with IEEE Std 1003.1-1990 and IEEE Std 1003.1b-1993. Clauses 5.1.2.4 II 102 & 114 should be changed to say: function shall return NULL and set errno to the corresponding value It is recommended that this be fixed by applying the IEEE errata process.

### Rationale for Interpretation

The approved IEEE Std 1003.1-1990 does not include this wording. IEEE Std 1003.1-1996 is a re-publication of 1003.1-1990 merged together with the amendments. Since there are intended to be no substantive changes apart from the merging of the amendments, this would appear to be a problem introduced with the merge. Forwarded to Interpretations group: Sep 17 1996 Review start: Oct 22 1996 Finalised: Nov 24 1996