
Liboath API Reference Manual

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Chapter 1

Liboath API Reference Manual

Liboath is a shared and static C library for handling OATH related technology such as HOTP.

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1.1 oath

oath —

Synopsis

```
#define OATHAPI
#define OATH_VERSION
#define OATH_VERSION_NUMBER
enum oath_rc;
int oath_init (void);
int oath_done (void);
const char * oath_check_version (const char *req_version);
int oath_hex2bin (char *hexstr, char *binstr, size_t *binlen);

const char * oath_strerror (int err);
const char * oath_strerror_name (int err);
#define OATH_HOTP_LENGTH (digits, checksum)

#define OATH_HOTP_DYNAMIC_TRUNCATION
int oath_hotp_generate (const char *secret, size_t secret_length, uint64_t moving_factor, unsigned digits, bool add_checksum, size_t truncation_offset, char *output_otp);

int oath_hotp_validate (const char *secret, size_t secret_length, uint64_t start_moving_factor, size_t window, const char *otp);
```

```

int      (*oath_validate_strcmp_function)
                                (void *handle,
                                const char *test_otp);

#define      oath_hotp_validate_strcmp_function
int      oath_hotp_validate_callback
                                (const char *secret,
                                size_t secret_length,
                                uint64_t start_moving_factor,
                                size_t window,
                                unsigned  digits,
                                oath_validate_strcmp_function str
                                void *strcmp_handle);

#define      OATH_TOTP_DEFAULT_TIME_STEP_SIZE
#define      OATH_TOTP_DEFAULT_START_TIME
int      oath_totp_generate
                                (const char *secret,
                                size_t secret_length,
                                time_t now,
                                unsigned  time_step_size,
                                time_t start_offset,
                                unsigned  digits,
                                char *output_otp);

int      oath_totp_validate
                                (const char *secret,
                                size_t secret_length,
                                time_t now,
                                unsigned  time_step_size,
                                time_t start_offset,
                                size_t window,
                                const char *otp);

int      oath_totp_validate_callback
                                (const char *secret,
                                size_t secret_length,
                                time_t now,
                                unsigned  time_step_size,
                                time_t start_offset,
                                unsigned  digits,
                                size_t window,
                                oath_validate_strcmp_function str
                                void *strcmp_handle);

int      oath_totp_validate2
                                (const char *secret,
                                size_t secret_length,
                                time_t now,
                                unsigned  time_step_size,
                                time_t start_offset,
                                size_t window,
                                int *otp_pos,
                                const char *otp);

int      oath_totp_validate2_callback
                                (const char *secret,
                                size_t secret_length,
                                time_t now,
                                unsigned  time_step_size,
                                time_t start_offset,
                                unsigned  digits,
                                size_t window,
                                int *otp_pos,
                                oath_validate_strcmp_function str
                                void *strcmp_handle);

int      oath_authenticate_usersfile
                                (const char *usersfile,
                                const char *username,
                                const char *otp,
                                size_t window,

```

```
const char *passwd,  
time_t *last_otp);
```

Description

Details

OATHAPI

```
#define OATHAPI
```

OATH_VERSION

```
#define OATH_VERSION "1.10.2"
```

Pre-processor symbol with a string that describe the header file version number. Used together with [oath_check_version\(\)](#) to verify header file and run-time library consistency.

OATH_VERSION_NUMBER

```
#define OATH_VERSION_NUMBER 0x010a0200
```

Pre-processor symbol with a hexadecimal value describing the header file version number. For example, when the header version is 1.2.3 this symbol will have the value 0x01020300. The last two digits are only used between public releases, and will otherwise be 00.

enum oath_rc

```
typedef enum  
{  
    OATH_OK = 0,  
    OATH_CRYPT_ERROR = -1,  
    OATH_INVALID_DIGITS = -2,  
    OATH_PRINTF_ERROR = -3,  
    OATH_INVALID_HEX = -4,  
    OATH_TOO_SMALL_BUFFER = -5,  
    OATH_INVALID_OTP = -6,  
    OATH_REPLAYED_OTP = -7,  
    OATH_BAD_PASSWORD = -8,  
    OATH_INVALID_COUNTER = -9,  
    OATH_INVALID_TIMESTAMP = -10,  
    OATH_NO_SUCH_FILE = -11,  
    OATH_UNKNOWN_USER = -12,  
    OATH_FILE_SEEK_ERROR = -13,  
    OATH_FILE_CREATE_ERROR = -14,  
    OATH_FILE_LOCK_ERROR = -15,  
    OATH_FILE_RENAME_ERROR = -16,  
    OATH_FILE_UNLINK_ERROR = -17,  
    OATH_TIME_ERROR = -18  
} oath_rc;
```

Return codes for OATH functions. All return codes are negative except for the successful code OATH_OK which are guaranteed to be 0. Positive values are reserved for non-error return codes.

Note that the [oath_rc](#) enumeration may be extended at a later date to include new return codes.

OATH_OK Successful return

OATH_CRYPTO_ERROR Internal error in crypto functions

OATH_INVALID_DIGITS Unsupported number of OTP digits

OATH_PRINTF_ERROR Error from system printf call

OATH_INVALID_HEX Hex string is invalid

OATH_TOO_SMALL_BUFFER The output buffer is too small

OATH_INVALID_OTP The OTP is not valid

OATH_REPLAYED_OTP The OTP has been replayed

OATH_BAD_PASSWORD The password does not match

OATH_INVALID_COUNTER The counter value is corrupt

OATH_INVALID_TIMESTAMP The timestamp is corrupt

OATH_NO_SUCH_FILE The supplied filename does not exist

OATH_UNKNOWN_USER Cannot find information about user

OATH_FILE_SEEK_ERROR System error when seeking in file

OATH_FILE_CREATE_ERROR System error when creating file

OATH_FILE_LOCK_ERROR System error when locking file

OATH_FILE_RENAME_ERROR System error when renaming file

OATH_FILE_UNLINK_ERROR System error when removing file

OATH_TIME_ERROR System error for time manipulation

oath_init ()

```
int                oath_init                (void);
```

This function initializes the OATH library. Every user of this library needs to call this function before using other functions. You should call **oath_done()** when use of the OATH library is no longer needed.

Note that this function may also initialize Libgcrypt, if the OATH library is built with libgcrypt support and libgcrypt has not been initialized before. Thus if you want to manually initialize libgcrypt you must do it before calling this function. This is useful in cases you want to disable libgcrypt's internal lockings etc.

Returns : On success, **OATH_OK** (zero) is returned, otherwise an error code is returned.

oath_done ()

```
int                oath_done                (void);
```

This function deinitializes the OATH library, which were initialized using **oath_init()**. After calling this function, no other OATH library function may be called except for to re-initialize the library using **oath_init()**.

Returns : On success, **OATH_OK** (zero) is returned, otherwise an error code is returned.

oath_check_version ()

```
const char *      oath_check_version      (const char *req_version);
```

Check OATH library version.

See **OATH_VERSION** for a suitable *req_version* string.

This function is one of few in the library that can be used without a successful call to **oath_init()**.

req_version : version string to compare with, or NULL.

Returns : Check that the version of the library is at minimum the one given as a string in *req_version* and return the actual version string of the library; return NULL if the condition is not met. If NULL is passed to this function no check is done and only the version string is returned.

oath_hex2bin ()

```
int              oath_hex2bin             (char *hexstr,  
                                           char *binstr,  
                                           size_t *binlen);
```

Convert string with hex data to binary data.

Non-hexadecimal data are not ignored but instead will lead to an **OATH_INVALID_HEX** error.

If *binstr* is NULL, then *binlen* will be populated with the necessary length. If the *binstr* buffer is too small, **OATH_TOO_SMALL** is returned and *binlen* will contain the necessary length.

hexstr : input string with hex data

binstr : output string that holds binary data, or NULL

binlen : output variable holding needed length of *binstr*

Returns : On success, **OATH_OK** (zero) is returned, otherwise an error code is returned.

oath_strerror ()

```
const char *      oath_strerror          (int err);
```

Convert return code to human readable string explanation of the reason for the particular error code.

This string can be used to output a diagnostic message to the user.

This function is one of few in the library that can be used without a successful call to **oath_init()**.

err : liboath error code

Returns : Returns a pointer to a statically allocated string containing an explanation of the error code *err*.

Since 1.8.0

oath_strerror_name ()

```
const char *      oath_strerror_name      (int err);
```

Convert return code to human readable string representing the error code symbol itself. For example, `oath_strerror_name(OATH_OK)` returns the string "OATH_OK".

This string can be used to output a diagnostic message to the user.

This function is one of few in the library that can be used without a successful call to `oath_init()`.

err : liboath error code

Returns : Returns a pointer to a statically allocated string containing a string version of the error code *err*, or **NULL** if the error code is not known.

Since 1.8.0

OATH_HOTP_LENGTH()

```
#define OATH_HOTP_LENGTH(digits, checksum) (digits + (checksum ? 1 : 0))
```

digits :

checksum :

OATH_HOTP_DYNAMIC_TRUNCATION

```
#define OATH_HOTP_DYNAMIC_TRUNCATION SIZE_MAX
```

oath_hotp_generate ()

```
int              oath_hotp_generate      (const char *secret,
                                          size_t secret_length,
                                          uint64_t moving_factor,
                                          unsigned digits,
                                          bool add_checksum,
                                          size_t truncation_offset,
                                          char *output_otp);
```

Generate a one-time-password using the HOTP algorithm as described in RFC 4226.

Use a value of **OATH_HOTP_DYNAMIC_TRUNCATION** for *truncation_offset* unless you really need a specific truncation offset.

To find out the size of the OTP you may use the **OATH_HOTP_LENGTH()** macro. The *output_otp* buffer must be have room for that length plus one for the terminating NUL.

Currently only values 6, 7 and 8 for *digits* are supported, and the *add_checksum* value is ignored. These restrictions may be lifted in future versions, although some limitations are inherent in the protocol.

secret : the shared secret string

secret_length : length of *secret*

moving_factor : a counter indicating the current OTP to generate

digits : number of requested digits in the OTP, excluding checksum

add_checksum : whether to add a checksum digit or not

truncation_offset : use a specific truncation offset

output_otp : output buffer, must have room for the output OTP plus zero

Returns : On success, **OATH_OK** (zero) is returned, otherwise an error code is returned.

oath_hotp_validate ()

```
int                oath_hotp_validate                (const char *secret,
                                                    size_t secret_length,
                                                    uint64_t start_moving_factor,
                                                    size_t window,
                                                    const char *otp);
```

Validate an OTP according to OATH HOTP algorithm per RFC 4226.

Currently only OTP lengths of 6, 7 or 8 digits are supported. This restrictions may be lifted in future versions, although some limitations are inherent in the protocol.

secret : the shared secret string

secret_length : length of *secret*

start_moving_factor : start counter in OTP stream

window : how many OTPs after start counter to test

otp : the OTP to validate.

Returns : Returns position in OTP window (zero is first position), or **OATH_INVALID_OTP** if no OTP was found in OTP window, or an error code.

oath_validate_strcmp_function ()

```
int                (*oath_validate_strcmp_function)  (void *handle,
                                                    const char *test_otp);
```

Prototype of strcmp-like function that will be called by **oath_hotp_validate_callback()** or **oath_totp_validate_callback()** to validate OTPs.

The function should behave like strcmp, i.e., only ever return 0 on matches.

This callback interface is useful when you cannot compare OTPs directly using normal strcmp, but instead for example only have a hashed OTP. You would then typically pass in the hashed OTP in the *strcmp_handle* and let your implementation of *oath_strcmp* hash the *test_otp* OTP using the same hash, and then compare the results.

handle : caller handle as passed to **oath_hotp_validate_callback()**

test_otp : OTP to match against.

Returns : 0 if and only if *test_otp* is identical to the OTP to be validated.

Since 1.6.0

oath_hotp_validate_strcmp_function

```
#define oath_hotp_validate_strcmp_function oath_validate_strcmp_function
```

oath_hotp_validate_callback ()

```
int          oath_hotp_validate_callback      (const char *secret,
                                              size_t secret_length,
                                              uint64_t start_moving_factor,
                                              size_t window,
                                              unsigned digits,
                                              oath_validate_strcmp_function ↔
                                              strcmp_otp,
                                              void *strcmp_handle);
```

Validate an OTP according to OATH HOTP algorithm per RFC 4226.

Validation is implemented by generating a number of potential OTPs and performing a call to the *strcmp_otp* function, to compare the potential OTP against the given *otp*. It has the following prototype:

```
int (*oath_validate_strcmp_function) (void *handle, const char *test_otp);
```

The function should behave like *strcmp*, i.e., only ever return 0 on matches.

This callback interface is useful when you cannot compare OTPs directly using normal *strcmp*, but instead for example only have a hashed OTP. You would then typically pass in the hashed OTP in the *strcmp_handle* and let your implementation of *strcmp_otp* hash the test_otp OTP using the same hash, and then compare the results.

Currently only OTP lengths of 6, 7 or 8 digits are supported. This restrictions may be lifted in future versions, although some limitations are inherent in the protocol.

secret : the shared secret string

secret_length : length of *secret*

start_moving_factor : start counter in OTP stream

window : how many OTPs after start counter to test

digits : number of requested digits in the OTP

strcmp_otp : function pointer to a strcmp-like function.

strcmp_handle : caller handle to be passed on to *strcmp_otp*.

Returns : Returns position in OTP window (zero is first position), or **OATH_INVALID_OTP** if no OTP was found in OTP window, or an error code.

Since 1.4.0

OATH_TOTP_DEFAULT_TIME_STEP_SIZE

```
#define OATH_TOTP_DEFAULT_TIME_STEP_SIZE~30
```

OATH_TOTP_DEFAULT_START_TIME

```
#define OATH_TOTP_DEFAULT_START_TIME      ((time_t) 0)
```

oath_totp_generate ()

```
int                oath_totp_generate                (const char *secret,
                                                    size_t secret_length,
                                                    time_t now,
                                                    unsigned time_step_size,
                                                    time_t start_offset,
                                                    unsigned digits,
                                                    char *output_otp);
```

Generate a one-time-password using the time-variant TOTP algorithm described in RFC 6238. The input parameters are taken as time values.

The system parameter *time_step_size* describes how long the time window for each OTP is. The recommended value is 30 seconds, and you can use the value 0 or the symbol **OATH_TOTP_DEFAULT_TIME_STEP_SIZE** to indicate this.

The system parameter *start_offset* denote the Unix time when time steps are started to be counted. The recommended value is 0, to fall back on the Unix epoch) and you can use the symbol **OATH_TOTP_DEFAULT_START_TIME** to indicate this.

The *output_otp* buffer must have room for at least *digits* characters, plus one for the terminating NUL.

Currently only values 6, 7 and 8 for *digits* are supported. This restriction may be lifted in future versions.

secret : the shared secret string

secret_length : length of *secret*

now : Unix time value to compute TOTP for

time_step_size : time step system parameter (typically 30)

start_offset : Unix time of when to start counting time steps (typically 0)

digits : number of requested digits in the OTP, excluding checksum

output_otp : output buffer, must have room for the output OTP plus zero

Returns : On success, **OATH_OK** (zero) is returned, otherwise an error code is returned.

Since 1.4.0

oath_totp_validate ()

```
int                oath_totp_validate                (const char *secret,
                                                    size_t secret_length,
                                                    time_t now,
                                                    unsigned time_step_size,
                                                    time_t start_offset,
                                                    size_t window,
                                                    const char *otp);
```

Validate an OTP according to OATH TOTP algorithm per RFC 6238.

Currently only OTP lengths of 6, 7 or 8 digits are supported. This restrictions may be lifted in future versions, although some limitations are inherent in the protocol.

secret : the shared secret string

secret_length : length of *secret*

now : Unix time value to validate TOTP for

time_step_size : time step system parameter (typically 30)

start_offset : Unix time of when to start counting time steps (typically 0)

window : how many OTPs after/before start OTP to test

otp : the OTP to validate.

Returns : Returns absolute value of position in OTP window (zero is first position), or **OATH_INVALID_OTP** if no OTP was found in OTP window, or an error code.

Since 1.6.0

oath_totp_validate_callback ()

```
int                oath_totp_validate_callback      (const char *secret,
                                                    size_t secret_length,
                                                    time_t now,
                                                    unsigned time_step_size,
                                                    time_t start_offset,
                                                    unsigned digits,
                                                    size_t window,
                                                    oath_validate_strcmp_function ←
                                                    strcmp_otp,
                                                    void *strcmp_handle);
```

Validate an OTP according to OATH TOTP algorithm per RFC 6238.

Validation is implemented by generating a number of potential OTPs and performing a call to the *strcmp_otp* function, to compare the potential OTP against the given *otp*. It has the following prototype:

```
int (*oath_validate_strcmp_function) (void *handle, const char *test_otp);
```

The function should behave like strcmp, i.e., only ever return 0 on matches.

This callback interface is useful when you cannot compare OTPs directly using normal strcmp, but instead for example only have a hashed OTP. You would then typically pass in the hashed OTP in the *strcmp_handle* and let your implementation of *strcmp_otp* hash the test_otp OTP using the same hash, and then compare the results.

Currently only OTP lengths of 6, 7 or 8 digits are supported. This restrictions may be lifted in future versions, although some limitations are inherent in the protocol.

secret : the shared secret string

secret_length : length of *secret*

now : Unix time value to compute TOTP for

time_step_size : time step system parameter (typically 30)

start_offset : Unix time of when to start counting time steps (typically 0)

digits : number of requested digits in the OTP

window : how many OTPs after start counter to test

strcmp_otp : function pointer to a strcmp-like function.

strcmp_handle : caller handle to be passed on to *strcmp_otp*.

Returns : Returns position in OTP window (zero is first position), or **OATH_INVALID_OTP** if no OTP was found in OTP window, or an error code.

Since 1.6.0

oath_totp_validate2 ()

```
int                oath_totp_validate2                (const char *secret,
                                                       size_t secret_length,
                                                       time_t now,
                                                       unsigned time_step_size,
                                                       time_t start_offset,
                                                       size_t window,
                                                       int *otp_pos,
                                                       const char *otp);
```

Validate an OTP according to OATH TOTP algorithm per RFC 6238.

Currently only OTP lengths of 6, 7 or 8 digits are supported. This restrictions may be lifted in future versions, although some limitations are inherent in the protocol.

secret : the shared secret string

secret_length : length of *secret*

now : Unix time value to validate TOTP for

time_step_size : time step system parameter (typically 30)

start_offset : Unix time of when to start counting time steps (typically 0)

window : how many OTPs after/before start OTP to test

otp_pos : output search position in search window (may be NULL).

otp : the OTP to validate.

Returns : Returns absolute value of position in OTP window (zero is first position), or **OATH_INVALID_OTP** if no OTP was found in OTP window, or an error code.

Since 1.10.0

oath_totp_validate2_callback ()

```
int                oath_totp_validate2_callback        (const char *secret,
                                                       size_t secret_length,
                                                       time_t now,
                                                       unsigned time_step_size,
                                                       time_t start_offset,
                                                       unsigned digits,
                                                       size_t window,
                                                       int *otp_pos,
                                                       oath_validate_strcmp_function ↔
                                                       strcmp_otp,
                                                       void *strcmp_handle);
```

Validate an OTP according to OATH TOTP algorithm per RFC 6238.

Validation is implemented by generating a number of potential OTPs and performing a call to the *strcmp_otp* function, to compare the potential OTP against the given *otp*. It has the following prototype:

```
int (*oath_validate_strcmp_function) (void *handle, const char *test_otp);
```

The function should behave like strcmp, i.e., only ever return 0 on matches.

This callback interface is useful when you cannot compare OTPs directly using normal strcmp, but instead for example only have a hashed OTP. You would then typically pass in the hashed OTP in the *strcmp_handle* and let your implementation of *strcmp_otp* hash the test_otp OTP using the same hash, and then compare the results.

Currently only OTP lengths of 6, 7 or 8 digits are supported. This restrictions may be lifted in future versions, although some limitations are inherent in the protocol.

secret : the shared secret string

secret_length : length of *secret*

now : Unix time value to compute TOTP for

time_step_size : time step system parameter (typically 30)

start_offset : Unix time of when to start counting time steps (typically 0)

digits : number of requested digits in the OTP

window : how many OTPs after start counter to test

otp_pos : output search position in search window (may be NULL).

strcmp_otp : function pointer to a strcmp-like function.

strcmp_handle : caller handle to be passed on to *strcmp_otp*.

Returns : Returns absolute value of position in OTP window (zero is first position), or **OATH_INVALID_OTP** if no OTP was found in OTP window, or an error code.

Since 1.10.0

oath_authenticate_usersfile ()

```
int                oath_authenticate_usersfile    (const char *usersfile,
                                                    const char *username,
                                                    const char *otp,
                                                    size_t window,
                                                    const char *passwd,
                                                    time_t *last_otp);
```

Authenticate user named *username* with the one-time password *otp* and (optional) password *passwd*. Credentials are read (and updated) from a text file named *usersfile*.

Note that for TOTP the usersfile will only record the last OTP and use that to make sure more recent OTPs have not been seen yet when validating a new OTP. That logic relies on using the same search window for the same user.

usersfile : string with user credential filename, in UsersFile format

username : string with name of user

otp : string with one-time password to authenticate

window : how many past/future OTPs to search

passwd : string with password, or NULL to disable password checking

last_otp : output variable holding last successful authentication

Returns : On successful validation, **OATH_OK** is returned. If the supplied *otp* is the same as the last successfully authenticated one-time password, **OATH_REPLAYED_OTP** is returned and the timestamp of the last authentication is returned in *last_otp*. If the one-time password is not found in the indicated search window, **OATH_INVALID_OTP** is returned. Otherwise, an error code is returned.

Chapter 2

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