

NAME

fread, fwrite - binary stream input/output

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>
```

```
size_t fread(void *ptr, size_t size, size_t nmemb, FILE *stream);
```

```
size_t fwrite(const void *ptr, size_t size, size_t nmemb,  
FILE *stream);
```

DESCRIPTION

The function **fread()** reads *nmemb* elements of data, each *size* bytes long, from the stream pointed to by *stream*, storing them at the location given by *ptr*.

The function **fwrite()** writes *nmemb* elements of data, each *size* bytes long, to the stream pointed to by *stream*, obtaining them from the location given by *ptr*.

For nonlocking counterparts, see [unlocked_stdio\(3\)](#).

RETURN VALUE

On success, **fread()** and **fwrite()** return the number of *items* read or written. This number equals the number of bytes transferred only when *size* is 1. If an error occurs, or the end of the file is reached, the return value is a short item count (or zero).

fread() does not distinguish between end-of-file and error, and callers must use [feof\(3\)](#) and [ferror\(3\)](#) to determine which occurred.

CONFORMING TO

C89, POSIX.1-2001.

SEE ALSO

[read\(2\)](#), [write\(2\)](#), [feof\(3\)](#), [ferror\(3\)](#), [unlocked_stdio\(3\)](#)

COLOPHON

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