

NAME

NDBM_File - Tied access to ndbm files

SYNOPSIS

```
use Fcntl; # For O_RDWR, O_CREAT, etc.
use NDBM_File;

tie(%h, 'NDBM_File', 'filename', O_RDWR|O_CREAT, 0666)
or die "Couldn't tie NDBM file 'filename': $!; aborting";

# Now read and change the hash
${newkey} = newvalue;
print ${oldkey};
...

untie %h;
```

DESCRIPTION

NDBM_File establishes a connection between a Perl hash variable and a file in NDBM_File format;. You can manipulate the data in the file just as if it were in a Perl hash, but when your program exits, the data will remain in the file, to be used the next time your program runs.

Use NDBM_File with the Perl built-in `tie` function to establish the connection between the variable and the file. The arguments to `tie` should be:

1. The hash variable you want to tie.
2. The string "NDBM_File". (This tells Perl to use the NDBM_File package to perform the functions of the hash.)
3. The name of the file you want to tie to the hash.
4. Flags. Use one of:
 - O_RDONLY
Read-only access to the data in the file.
 - O_WRONLY
Write-only access to the data in the file.
 - O_RDWR
Both read and write access.
5. The default permissions to use if a new file is created. The actual permissions will be modified by the user's umask, so you should probably use 0666 here. (See "umask" in `perlfunc`.)

DIAGNOSTICS

On failure, the `tie` call returns an undefined value and probably sets `!` to contain the reason the file could not be tied.

```
ndbm store returned -1, errno 22, key '...' at ...
```

This warning is emitted when you try to store a key or a value that is too long. It means that the change was not recorded in the database. See **BUGS AND WARNINGS** below.

BUGS AND WARNINGS

There are a number of limits on the size of the data that you can store in the NDBM file. The most important is that the length of a key, plus the length of its associated value, may not exceed 1008 bytes.

See "tie" in [perlfunc\(1\)](#), [perldbfilter\(1\)](#), `Fcntl`