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## ***Red Hat Enterprise Linux Release 9.2 Manual Pages on 'recv.3p' command***

**\$ man recv.3p**

RECV(3P)                    POSIX Programmer's Manual                    RECV(3P)

### PROLOG

This manual page is part of the POSIX Programmer's Manual. The Linux implementation of this interface may differ (consult the corresponding Linux manual page for details of Linux behavior), or the interface may not be implemented on Linux.

### NAME

recv ? receive a message from a connected socket

### SYNOPSIS

```
#include <sys/socket.h>

ssize_t recv(int socket, void *buffer, size_t length, int flags);
```

### DESCRIPTION

The `recv()` function shall receive a message from a `connection-mode` or `connectionless-mode` socket. It is normally used with connected sockets because it does not permit the application to retrieve the `source address` of received data.

The `recv()` function takes the following arguments:

- `socket`    Specifies the socket file descriptor.
- `buffer`    Points to a buffer where the message should be stored.
- `length`    Specifies the length in bytes of the buffer pointed to by the `buffer` argument.
- `flags`    Specifies the type of message reception. Values of this argument are formed by logically OR'ing zero or more of the fol?

lowing values:

**MSG\_PEEK** Peeks at an incoming message. The data is treated as unread and the next `recv()` or similar function shall still return this data.

**MSG\_OOB** Requests out-of-band data. The significance and semantics of out-of-band data are protocol-specific.

**MSG\_WAITALL** On `SOCK_STREAM` sockets this requests that the function block until the full amount of data can be returned. The function may return the smaller amount of data if the socket is a message-based socket, if a signal is caught, if the connection is terminated, if `MSG_PEEK` was specified, or if an error is pending for the socket.

The `recv()` function shall return the length of the message written to the buffer pointed to by the buffer argument. For message-based sockets, such as `SOCK_DGRAM` and `SOCK_SEQPACKET`, the entire message shall be read in a single operation. If a message is too long to fit in the supplied buffer, and `MSG_PEEK` is not set in the flags argument, the excess bytes shall be discarded. For stream-based sockets, such as `SOCK_STREAM`, message boundaries shall be ignored. In this case, data shall be returned to the user as soon as it becomes available, and no data shall be discarded.

If the `MSG_WAITALL` flag is not set, data shall be returned only up to the end of the first message.

If no messages are available at the socket and `O_NONBLOCK` is not set on the socket's file descriptor, `recv()` shall block until a message arrives. If no messages are available at the socket and `O_NONBLOCK` is set on the socket's file descriptor, `recv()` shall fail and set `errno` to `[EAGAIN]` or `[EWOULDBLOCK]`.

## RETURN VALUE

Upon successful completion, `recv()` shall return the length of the message in bytes. If no messages are available to be received and the peer

has performed an orderly shutdown, `recv()` shall return 0. Otherwise, -1 shall be returned and `errno` set to indicate the error.

## ERRORS

The `recv()` function shall fail if:

### EAGAIN or EWOULDBLOCK

The socket's file descriptor is marked `O_NONBLOCK` and no data is waiting to be received; or `MSG_OOB` is set and no out-of-band data is available and either the socket's file descriptor is marked `O_NONBLOCK` or the socket does not support blocking to await out-of-band data.

**EBADF** The socket argument is not a valid file descriptor.

### ECONNRESET

A connection was forcibly closed by a peer.

**EINTR** The `recv()` function was interrupted by a signal that was caught, before any data was available.

**EINVAL** The `MSG_OOB` flag is set and no out-of-band data is available.

### ENOTCONN

A receive is attempted on a connection-mode socket that is not connected.

### ENOTSOCK

The socket argument does not refer to a socket.

### EOPNOTSUPP

The specified flags are not supported for this socket type or protocol.

### ETIMEDOUT

The connection timed out during connection establishment, or due to a transmission timeout on active connection.

The `recv()` function may fail if:

**EIO** An I/O error occurred while reading from or writing to the file system.

### ENOBUFS

Insufficient resources were available in the system to perform the operation.

ENOMEM Insufficient memory was available to fulfill the request.

The following sections are informative.

## EXAMPLES

None.

## APPLICATION USAGE

The `recv()` function is equivalent to `recvfrom()` with null pointer `addr` and `address_len` arguments, and to `read()` if the `socket` argument refers to a socket and the `flags` argument is 0.

The `select()` and `poll()` functions can be used to determine when data is available to be received.

## RATIONALE

None.

## FUTURE DIRECTIONS

None.

## SEE ALSO

`poll()`, `pselect()`, `read()`, `recvmsg()`, `recvfrom()`, `send()`, `sendmsg()`, `sendto()`, `shutdown()`, `socket()`, `write()`

The Base Definitions volume of POSIX.1-2017, `<sys_socket.h>`

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