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

**\$ man recvmsg.3p**

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

recvmsg ? receive a message from a socket

### SYNOPSIS

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

ssize_t recvmsg(int socket, struct msghdr *message, int flags);
```

### DESCRIPTION

The `recvmsg()` function shall receive a message from a connection-mode or connectionless-mode socket. It is normally used with connectionless-mode sockets because it permits the application to retrieve the source address of received data.

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

`socket`    Specifies the socket file descriptor.

`message`    Points to a `msghdr` structure, containing both the buffer to store the source address and the buffers for the incoming message. The length and format of the address depend on the address family of the socket. The `msg_flags` member is ignored on input, but may contain meaningful values on out?

put.

flags Specifies the type of message reception. Values of this argument are formed by logically OR'ing zero or more of the following values:

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

MSG\_PEEK Peeks at the incoming message.

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 `recvmsg()` function shall receive messages from unconnected or connected sockets and shall return the length of the message.

The `recvmsg()` function shall return the total length of the message.

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 buffers, and MSG\_PEEK is not set in the flags argument, the excess bytes shall be discarded, and MSG\_TRUNC shall be set in the `msg_flags` member of the `msg_hdr` structure. 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, `recvmsg()` 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, the `recvmsg()` function shall fail and

set `errno` to `[EAGAIN]` or `[EWOULDBLOCK]`.

In the `msg_hdr` structure, the `msg_name` member may be a null pointer if the source address is not required. Otherwise, if the socket is unconnected, the `msg_name` member points to a `sockaddr` structure in which the source address is to be stored, and the `msg_namelen` member on input specifies the length of the supplied `sockaddr` structure and on output specifies the length of the stored address. If the actual length of the address is greater than the length of the supplied `sockaddr` structure, the stored address shall be truncated. If the socket is connected, the `msg_name` and `msg_namelen` members shall be ignored. The `msg_iov` and `msg_iovlen` fields are used to specify where the received data shall be stored. The `msg_iov` member points to an array of `iovec` structures; the `msg_iovlen` member shall be set to the dimension of this array. In each `iovec` structure, the `iov_base` field specifies a storage area and the `iov_len` field gives its size in bytes. Each storage area indicated by `msg_iov` is filled with received data in turn until all of the received data is stored or all of the areas have been filled.

Upon successful completion, the `msg_flags` member of the message header shall be the bitwise-inclusive OR of all of the following flags that indicate conditions detected for the received message:

`MSG_EOR` End-of-record was received (if supported by the protocol).

`MSG_OOB` Out-of-band data was received.

`MSG_TRUNC` Normal data was truncated.

`MSG_CTRUNC` Control data was truncated.

## RETURN VALUE

Upon successful completion, `recvmsg()` 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, `recvmsg()` shall return 0. Otherwise, -1 shall be returned and `errno` set to indicate the error.

## ERRORS

The `recvmsg()` 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 open file descriptor.

#### **ECONNRESET**

A connection was forcibly closed by a peer.

**EINTR** This function was interrupted by a signal before any data was available.

**EINVAL** The sum of the iov\_len values overflows a ssize\_t, or the MSG\_OOB flag is set and no out-of-band data is available.

#### **EMSGSIZE**

The msg\_iovlen member of the msghdr structure pointed to by message is less than or equal to 0, or is greater than {IOV\_MAX}.

#### **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.

#### **ETIMEDOUT**

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

The recvmsg() 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 `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()`, `recv()`, `recvfrom()`, `send()`, `sendmsg()`, `sendto()`,  
`shutdown()`, `socket()`

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

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2017

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