



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'fread.3'

\$ man fread.3

fread(3) Library Functions Manual fread(3)

NAME

fread, fwrite - binary stream input/output

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

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

```
size_t fread(size_t size, size_t n;
```

```
    void ptr[restrict size * n],
```

```
    size_t size, size_t n,
```

```
    FILE *restrict stream);
```

```
size_t fwrite(size_t size, size_t n;
```

```
    const void ptr[restrict size * n],
```

```
    size_t size, size_t n,
```

```
    FILE *restrict stream);
```

DESCRIPTION

The function `fread()` reads `n` items 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 `n` items 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


```

fp = fopen("/bin/sh", "rb");

if (!fp) {
    perror("fopen");
    return EXIT_FAILURE;
}

ret = fread(buffer, sizeof(*buffer), countof(buffer), fp);

if (ret != countof(buffer)) {
    fprintf(stderr, "fread() failed: %zu\n", ret);
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}

printf("ELF magic: %#04x%02x%02x%02x\n", buffer[0], buffer[1],
        buffer[2], buffer[3]);

ret = fread(buffer, 1, 1, fp);

if (ret != 1) {
    fprintf(stderr, "fread() failed: %zu\n", ret);
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}

printf("Class: %#04x\n", buffer[0]);

fclose(fp);

exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
}

```

SEE ALSO

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