



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

\$ man ftell.3

fseek(3) Library Functions Manual fseek(3)

NAME

fgetpos, fseek, fsetpos, ftell, rewind - reposition a stream

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>

int fseek(FILE *stream, long offset, int whence);

long ftell(FILE *stream);

void rewind(FILE *stream);

int fgetpos(FILE *restrict stream, fpos_t *restrict pos);

int fsetpos(FILE *stream, const fpos_t *pos);
```

DESCRIPTION

The `fseek()` function sets the file position indicator for the stream pointed to by `stream`.

The new position, measured in bytes, is obtained by adding `offset` bytes to the position specified by `whence`. If `whence` is set to `SEEK_SET`, `SEEK_CUR`, or `SEEK_END`, the offset is relative to the start of the file, the current position indicator, or end-of-file, respectively. A successful call to the `fseek()` function clears the end-of-file indicator for the stream and undoes any effects of the `ungetc(3)` function on the same stream.

The `ftell()` function obtains the current value of the file position indicator for the stream pointed to by `stream`.

The `rewind()` function sets the file position indicator for the stream pointed to by `stream` to the beginning of the file. It is equivalent to:

```
(void) fseek(stream, 0L, SEEK_SET)
```

except that the error indicator for the stream is also cleared (see `clearerr(3)`).

The `fgetpos()` and `fsetpos()` functions are alternate interfaces equivalent to `ftell()` and `fseek()` (with `whence` set to `SEEK_SET`), setting and storing the current value of the file offset into or from the object referenced by `pos`. On some non-UNIX systems, an `fpos_t` object may be a complex object and these routines may be the only way to portably reposition a text stream.

If the stream refers to a regular file and the resulting stream offset is beyond the size of the file, subsequent writes will extend the file with a hole, up to the offset, before committing any data. See `lseek(2)` for details on file seeking semantics.

RETURN VALUE

The `rewind()` function returns no value. Upon successful completion, `fgetpos()`, `fseek()`, `fsetpos()` return 0, and `ftell()` returns the current offset. Otherwise, -1 is returned and `errno` is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS

EINVAL The whence argument to fseek() was not SEEK_SET, SEEK_END, or SEEK_CUR. Or: the resulting file offset would be negative.

ESPIPE The file descriptor underlying stream is not seekable (e.g., it refers to a pipe, FIFO, or socket).

The functions `fgetpos()`, `fseek()`, `fsetpos()`, and `ftell()` may also fail and set `errno` for any of the errors specified for the routines `fflush(3)`, `fstat(2)`, `lseek(2)`, and `malloc(3)`.

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see `attributes(7)`.

[illegible]

?	Interface	?	Attribute	?	Value	?
---	-----------	---	-----------	---	-------	---

[illegible]

? fseek(), ftell(), rewind(), fgetpos(), fsetpos() ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe ?

[illegible]

STANDARDS

C11, POSIX.1-2008.

HISTORY

POSIX.1-2001, C89.

SEE ALSO

lseek(2), fseeko(3)

Linux man-pages 6.17

2025-05-17

fseek(3)