



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

\$ man open_memstream.3

open_memstream(3) Library Functions Manual open_memstream(3)

NAME

open_memstream, open_wmemstream - open a dynamic memory buffer stream

LIBRARY

Standard C library (libc, -lc)

SYNOPSIS

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

```
FILE *open_memstream(char **ptr, size_t *sizeloc);
```

```
#include <wchar.h>
```

```
FILE *open_wmemstream(wchar_t **ptr, size_t *sizeloc);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature_test_macros(7)):

open_memstream(), open_wmemstream():

Since glibc 2.10:

```
_POSIX_C_SOURCE >= 200809L
```

Before glibc 2.10:

```
_GNU_SOURCE
```

DESCRIPTION

The `open_memstream()` function opens a stream for writing to a memory buffer. The function dynamically allocates the buffer, and the buffer automatically grows as needed. Initially, the buffer has a size of zero. After closing the stream, the caller should `free(3)` this buffer.

The locations pointed to by `ptr` and `sizeloc` are used to report, respectively, the current location and the size of the buffer. The locations referred to by these pointers are up?

These values remain valid only as long as the caller performs no further output on the stream. If further output is performed, then the stream must again be flushed before trying to access these values.

The stream maintains the notion of a current position, which is initially zero (the start of the buffer). Each write operation implicitly adjusts the `buffer` position. The stream's buffer position can be explicitly changed with `fseek(3)` or `fseeko(3)`. Moving the buffer position past the end of the data already written fills the intervening space with null characters.

RETURN VALUE

Otherwise, NULL is returned and errno is set to indicate the error.

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

?	Interface	?	Attribute	?	Value	?

? open memstream(), open wmemstream() ? Thread safety ? MT-Safe ?

[illegible]

POSIX.1-2008.

open_memstream()

```
open wmemstream()
```

glibc 2.4.

There is no file descriptor associated with the file stream returned by these functions

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BUGS

Before glibc 2.7, seeking past the end of a stream created by `open_memstream()` does not enlarge the buffer; instead the `fseek(3)` call fails, returning -1.

EXAMPLES

See `fmemopen(3)`.

SEE ALSO

`fmemopen(3)`, `fopen(3)`, `setbuf(3)`

Linux man-pages 6.17

2026-02-08

`open_memstream(3)`