



 AHELP for CIAO 3.4

fread

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Synopsis

Read binary data from a file

Syntax

```
UInt_Type fread (Ref_Type b, DataType_Type t, UInt_Type n, File_Type fp)
```

Description

The fread function may be used to read *n* objects of type *t* from an open file pointer *fp*. Upon success, it returns the number of objects read from the file and places the objects in the variable specified by *b*. Upon error or end of file, it returns -1 . If more than one object is read from the file, those objects will be placed in an array of the appropriate size. The exception to this is when reading *Char_Type* or *UChar_Type* objects from a file, in which case the data will be returned as an *n* character *BString_Type* binary string, but only if $n > 1$.

Example

The following example illustrates how to read 50 bytes from a file:

```
define read_50_bytes_from_file (file)
{
  variable fp, n, buf;

  fp = fopen (file, "rb");
  if (fp == NULL) error ("Open failed");
  n = fread (&buf, Char_Type, 50, fp);
  if (n == -1)
    error ("fread failed");
  () = fclose (fp);
  return buf;
}
```

Use the pack and unpack functions to read data with a specific byte-ordering.

See Also

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[clearerr](#), [fclose](#), [fdopen](#), [feof](#), [ferror](#), [fflush](#), [fgets](#), [fgetslines](#), [fileno](#), [fopen](#), [fprintf](#), [fputs](#), [fseek](#), [ftell](#), [fwrite](#), [isatty](#), [mkdir](#), [open](#), [pack](#), [pad](#) [pack](#) [format](#), [popen](#), [printf](#), [read](#), [sizeof](#) [pack](#), [scanf](#), [uname](#), [unpack](#), [write](#)

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