

*AHELP for CIAO 3.4*

fread

Context: [slangrtl](#)*Jump to:* [Description](#) [Example](#) [See Also](#)

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

slangrtl

fread

Ahelp: fread – CIAO 3.4

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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URL:
<http://cxc.harvard.edu/ciao3.4/fread.tm.html>
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