# minIni

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MININI is a programmer's library to read and write "INI" files in embedded systems. MININI takes little resources, has a deterministic memory footprint, and can be configured for various kinds of file I/O libraries.

The principal purpose for MININI is to be used on embedded systems that run on an RTOS (or even without any operating system). MININI requires that such a system provides a kind of storage and file I/O system, but it does not require that this file I/O system is compatible with the standard  $C/C^{++}$  library —indeed, the standard library is often too big and resource-hungry for embedded systems.

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The MININI library was derived in part from the article "Multiplatform .INI Files" by Joseph J. Graf in the March 1994 issue of Dr. Dobb's Journal.

The examples and programs in this manual have been included for their instructional value. They have been tested with care, but are not guaranteed for any particular purpose.

## Introduction

MININI is a library to read and write simple configuration files with a format compatible with "INI" files. The MININI library features a small code size footprint and it requires little resources (e.g. RAM). It is therefore suitable for use in (small) embedded systems.

The INI file format is best known from Microsoft Windows, with its functions GetProfileString and WriteProfileString to read from and write to INI files. The functions in MININI are modelled after the functions of the Windows SDK, but they are not fully compatible with them.

Although the main asset of MININI is that it is small and minimal, it has a few other features:

- MININI supports reading keys that are outside a section, and it thereby supports configuration files that do not use sections (but that are otherwise compatible with INI files).
- Section and key enumeration are supported.
- ♦ You may use a colon to separate key and value; the colon is equivalent to the equal sign. That is, the strings "Name: Value" and "Name=Value" have the same meaning.
- ⋄ Trailing comments (i.e. behind a key/value pair on a line) are allowed. The hash character ("#") is an alternative for the semicolon to start a comment.
- ♦ When writing a value that contains a comment character (";" or "#"), that value will automatically be put between double quotes; when reading the value, these quotes are removed. When a double-quote itself appears in the setting, these characters are escaped.
- ⋄ Flexible rational number support, either fixed-point or floating-point.
- Since writing speed is much lower than reading speed in Flash memory (SD/MMC cards, USB memory sticks), MININI caches "file writes" to optimize performance, and it does so in a way that does not require extra memory.

### Limitations

MININI's design is aimed at being full-featured while using a small and deterministic memory footprint. It is not optimized for speed. On performancesensitive code, I advice to read any values or settings that are needed ahead of the time and to store these in variables.

Specifically, MININI does not cache any key/value pairs that it reads from the INI file. It also does not keep the INI file open between calls; MININI closes the file after every read or write operation.

When writing to an INI file, MININI creates a temporary file into which it copies (with modifications) the original file. On success, it deletes the original file and renames the temporary file back. If several settings must be changed, this cycle repeats for every setting.

There is no inherent file locking mechanism that protects against multiple applications (or threads, or tasks) accessing the same INI file. If an INI file is shared accross multiple programs/threads/tasks, see section Multi-tasking on page 9 for tips and options.

### INI file syntax

An INI file has a simple syntax with name/value pairs in a plain text file. The name must be unique (per section) and the value must fit on a single line. An INI file is commonly separated into sections —in MININI, this is optional. A section is a name between square brackets, like "[Network]" in the example below.

#### LISTING: Example INI file

```
[Network]
hostname = My Computer
address = dhcp
dns = 192.168.1.1
```

In the API and in this documentation, the "name" for a setting is denoted as the *key* for the setting. The key and the value are separated by an equal sign ("="). MININI supports the colon (":") as an alternative to the equal sign for the key/value delimiter.

Section and key name comparisons are case insensitive in MININI (as is the case in the Microsoft Windows API). Therefore, in the INI file you may type "DNS = 192.168.1.1" just as well as "dns = 192.168.1.1".

Leading a trailing spaces around values or key names are removed. If you need to include leading and/or trailing spaces in a value, put the value between double quotes. The ini\_gets function strips off the double quotes from the returned value. Function ini\_puts adds double quotes if the value to write contains trailing white space (or special characters).

MININI ignores spaces around the "=" or ":" delimiters, but it does not ignore spaces between the brackets in a section name. In other words, it is best not to put spaces behind the opening bracket "[" or before the closing bracket "]" of a section name.

Comments in the INI must start with a semicolon (";") or a hash character ("#"), and run to the end of the line. A comment can be a line of its own, or it may follow a key/value pair.

# Using minIni

The first step in using MININI is making sure that it compiles. The library consists of only one C file and two header files, so the amount of configuration to do is minimal. If you cannot use the standard C/C++ library, there is, however, a configuration file (or "glue" file) that you must make or customize; this file is explained in the next section. The MININI distribution comes with a default configuration file that maps to the standard C library (specifically the file I/O functions from the "stdio" package) and example glue files for a few embedded file system libraries for embedded systems —see appendix A of this manual.

Once you have a good glue file, you can add the source file of MININI to your project and include the header file "minIni.h" in your source code files. In your source code, you can then use the functions in the MININI library to read text and values from INI files and to write text and values to an INI file. See the Function reference for details.

MININI uses string functions from the standard  $C/C^{++}$  library, including one function that is not in the ANSI C standard: strnicmp. On the Unix and Linux platforms, this function is usually called strncasecmp. If you are using a GNU GCC compiler, but you are not compiling for a Linux or "BSD" platform, you may need to define strnicmp as strncasecmp in the glue file (see below). If your compiler provides neither strnicmp nor strncasecmp, you can use a portable implementation in MININI by defining the macro PORTABLE STRNICMP in the glue file (or on the compiler command line).

A notable limitation of MININI is that there is a (fixed) maximum length of a line that can be read from an INI file. This maximum length is configurable (at compile-time, not at run-time) and it may be short on embedded systems -see page 5.

When running in an Unicode environment or when moving the INI file across platforms, there may be other considerations concerning the use of MININI see the relevant sections in this chapter, specifically the section on Unicode on page 7.

## The glue file

The MININI library must be configured for a platform with the help of a socalled "glue file". This glue file contains macros (and possibly "inline" functions) that map file reading and writing functions used by the MININI library to those provided by the operating system. The glue file must be called "minGlue.h".

One general configuration is whether internal error checking via "assertions" is active. The MININI library uses the assert macro to help catch errors in the MININI library and/or catch errors in how the application interfaces with the MININI library. To build a release version, one typically recompiles all source code with the NDEBUG macro set.

In the case that your (embedded) platform lacks an assert.h file, you may want to define NDEBUG in the minGlue.h file.

#### I/O functions

The MININI source code requires functions from a file I/O library to perform the actual reading and writing. This can be any library; MININI does not rely on the availability of a standard C library, because embedded operating systems may have limited support for file I/O. Even on full operating systems, separating the file I/O from the INI format parsing carries advantages, because it allows you to cache the INI file and thereby enhance performance.

The functions that you need to implement, or map to standard file I/O functions are:

#### LISTING: Functions to map in the "glue file"

```
int ini_openread(const char *filename, INI_FILETYPE *file)
int ini_openwrite(const char *filename, INI_FILETYPE *file)
int ini_close(INI_FILETYPE *file)
int ini_read(char *buffer, size_t size, INI_FILETYPE *file)
int ini_write(char *buffer, INI_FILETYPE *file)
int ini_rename(const char *source, const char *dest)
int ini_remove(const char *filename)
int ini_tell(INI_FILETYPE *file, INI_FILEPOS *pos)
int ini_seek(INI_FILETYPE *file, INI_FILEPOS *pos)
```

All functions should return zero on failure and a non-zero value on success. For examples of "implementations" for the above functions, see appendix A on page 22.

The ini\_remove function is redundant if ini\_rename overwrites an existing destination file. When using GCC and Glibc as the C library, you may use the behaviour of the rename function (from Glibc) to overwrite the destination if it exists. Removing the original file before renaming the new file to the original name is then redundant, and the definition of ini\_remove is then likewise redundant. When not using GCC and Glibc, you should consult the documentation for your compiler and library; standard C defines the behaviour of rename in this condition as implementation-defined.

The INI\_FILETYPE type used in the above "glue" functions, must also be defined in the glue file. If you are using the standard C/C<sup>++</sup> file I/O library, this is the "FILE\*" type of the standard C/C++ file I/O library. On embedded systems with a different I/O library, chances are that you need a different handle or "structure" to identify the storage. For example:

#define INI FILETYPE HANDLE

The MININI functions will declare variables of the INI FILETYPE type and pass these variables to sub-functions (including the glue interface functions) by reference.

For read-only support of INI files, only the macros/functions ini openread, ini close and ini read are needed (see also page 6). The other functions are only needed for writing support. The type that holds the "file position" (for functions ini tell and ini seek) must be declared as well. For applications that use the standard C/C<sup>++</sup> file I/O library functions fgetpos and fsetpos, this is the fpos t type.

#define INI FILEPOS fpos\_t

Function ini openread is for opening an existing file, and for opening it for reading only. Function ini openwrite must create a new file, or delete and re-create an existing file. The definition of the function ini openrewrite is optional; if available, it is used to open an existing file for writing, but without truncating the file (many libraries call this "read + write mode"). Function ini openrewrite allows for an optimization in the special case that an update of a setting does not cause the file length to be changed.

On Microsoft Windows and DOS, files can be opened in either "text mode" or in "binary mode", and this relates mostly on the line termination translation. Despite INI files being text files, it is advised to open the INI file in binary mode.

See see appendix A on page 22 for examples of glue files for various file systems.

#### Buffer size (maximum line length)

Another item that needs to be configured is the buffer size. The functions in the MININI library allocate this buffer on the stack, so the buffer size is directly related to the stack usage. In addition, the buffer size determines the maximum line length that is supported in the INI file and the maximum path name length for the temporary file (for writing support). For example, minGlue.h could contain the definition:

#define INI BUFFERSIZE

512

The above macro limits the line length of the INI files supported by MININI to 512 characters.

The buffer size declared here is also the size of the "write cache" that MININI uses to optimize performance on file writes.

#### Read-only support

In its default configuration, MININI supports both reading and writing INI files. If your application does not require write support, you can add a setting to the minGlue.h file to strip out the unneeded code.

#define INI READONLY

When writing a setting to an INI, MININI writes it to a temporary file, copies the other sections and keys from the original INI file, and then deletes the original file and renames the temporary file to the name of the original file. This approach uses the least amount of memory. The disadvantage is that writes to an INI file are slow, especially on large INI files.

Furthermore, when writing to the temporary file, MININI repeatedly looks ahead in the source INI and jumps back to a position that it marked earlier. The goal of this design is to minimize the number of inidividual "write actions" to the file, because on Flash memory (and EEPROM memory), writing is an order of magnitude slower than reading.

The path name of the temporary file is the same as the input file, but with the last character set to a tilde ("~").

#### Browsing support

An affecient way to scan through the complete INI file and read all settings, is with ini\_browse, see page 10. Browsing support may be excluded from the MININI library by defining the INI NOBROWSE definition.

#### Rational number support

MININI can be configured to support reading and writing single-precision floating point values —see the functions ini\_getf and ini\_putf. Embedded processors may lack floating point hardware and software emulation of floating-point operations may be too costly in resources (memory). For these platforms, alternatives are to switch to a fixed-point representation or, when rational numbers are not relevant for the project, to disable the rational number support in MININI altogether.

To enable rational number support, a macro for the type and macros or interface functions for number-to-text conversions must be added to minGlue.h. For the standard  $C/C^{++}$  library, you can add the following definitions to the glue file:

```
#define INI REAL
#define ini ftoa(string,value)
                                sprintf((string), "%f", (value))
#define ini atof(string)
                                 (INI REAL)strtod((string),NULL)
```

For a different representation of rational numbers, only the definitions in minGlue.h have to change. The following example is based on the "fixedptc" library by Ivan Voras.

```
fixedpt
#define INI REAL
#define ini ftoa(string,value)
                                fixedpt str((value),(string))
#define ini atof(string)
                                fixedpt val((string))
```

To disable rational number support, remove the declaration for the INI REAL type from the minGlue.h file.

#### Unicode (enable/disable)

MININI can be compiled with Unicode support, but it delegates storing the actual characters to the "glue" routines. Although you can use standard Unicode file reading and writing routines to create and guery INI files in Unicode text format, it is advised to keep the INI file format as ASCII, for best compatibility with other implementations. To store Unicode characters in the ASCII file, convert the Unicode data to (and from) UTF-8 (the MININI library does not provide functions for this conversion).

It is advised to keep the section and key names as ASCII or ANSI Latin-1; only the "values" of each key should be encoded as UTF-8.

Currently, all distributions of Linux lack a header file called tchar.h which adds a portability layer for source code that can be compiled as ASCII or as Unicode. MININI relies on tchar.h when compiling for Unicode. Therefore, when compiling a Unicode application under Linux, you have two options: create a minimal version of tchar.h yourself, or compile MININI for the 8-bit ANSI character set, while the remainder of the application is Unicode. To force-compile MININI for ANSI, add the definition INI ANSIONLY in the glue file ("minGlue.h"). For example:

#### Line termination

On Microsoft Windows and DOS, lines of text files are usually terminated by a CR-LF character pair (" $\r$ " in C/C<sup>++</sup> terminology). On Linux and Unix, the line terminator is only the LF character and on the Macintosh, it is only the CR character.

The line termination convention is not important when reading from INI files, because MININI strips off all trailing white space (and control characters such as carriage-return and line-feed are considered white space). The line termination convention is also not important when the INI file is only accessed by MININI. Finally, if you use the standard  $C/C^{++}$  library as the back-end for reading and writing files, this standard  $C/C^{++}$  library may already handle the platform-dependent line termination for you.

However, if you wish to read and adjust the INI files with other applications, across platforms —e.g. edit the INI file with a simple text editor as Notepad on Microsoft Windows and then store it on an embedded device with a Linux-based operating system, then it may be advantageous to tell MININI the line termination characters to use. To do so, define the macro INI\_LINETERM in the file "minGlue.h" and set it to the character or characters to use. For example:

#define INI\_LINETERM "\r\n"

#### Summary of configuration macros

INI\_ANSIONLY If this macro is defined, INI files are forced to be written

with 8-bit characters (ASCII or ANSI character sets), regardless of whether the remainder of the application is written

as Unicode. See page 7.

INI\_BUFFERSIZE The maximum line length that is supported, as well as the

maximum path length for temporary file (if write access is

enabled). The default value is 512. See page 5.

INI\_FILEPOS The type for a position in a file. This is a required setting

if writing support is enabled.

INI\_FILETYPE The type for a variable that represents a file. This is a

required setting. See page 5.

INI\_LINETERM This macro should be set to the line termination charac-

ter (or characters). If left undefined, the default is a line-feed character. Note that the standard file I/O library may translate a line-feed character to a carriage-return/line-feed pair (this depends on the file I/O library). See page

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Exclude the ini\_browse function from the MININI library. TNT NOBROWSE

INI\_READONLY If this macro is defined, write access is disabled (and the

code for writing INI files is stripped from the MININI library.

See page 6

INI\_REAL The type for a variable that represents a rational number.

If left undefined, rational number support is disabled. See

page 6.

If defined, the assert macro in the MININI source code is **NDFBUG** 

> disabled. Typically developers build with assertions enabled during development and disable them for a release version. If your platform lacks an assert macro, you may want to define the NDEBUG macro in the minGlue.h file.

PORTABLE\_STRNICMP

If defined, MININI uses an internal, portable strnicmp function. This is required for platforms that lack this function —note that MININI already handles the case where this function is called strncasecmp. See page 3.

### Multi-tasking

The MININI library does not have any global variables and it does not use any dynamically allocated memory. Yet, the library should not be considered "thread-safe" or re-entrant, because it implicitly uses a particular shared resource: the file system.

Multiple tasks reading from an INI file do not pose a problem. However, when one task is writing to an INI file, no other tasks should access this INI file —neither for reading, nor for writing. It might be easier, in the implementation, to serialize all accesses of the INI file.

The first advise in protecting resources from concurrent access in a multitasking environment is to avoid sharing resources between tasks. If only a single task uses a resource, no semaphore protection is necessary and no priority inversion or deadlock problems can occur. This advise also applies to the MININI library. If possible, make a single task the "owner" of the INI file and create a client/server architecture for other tasks to query and adjust settings.

If access to the INI file must be shared between tasks (and at least one of the tasks writes to the INI file), you need to write wrappers around the functions of the MININI library that block on a mutex or binary semaphore, or that use the file locking mechanism in the operating system. See the next sections for tips specific to an operating systems.

#### Linux

An option in Linux (and other Unix-like environments) is to use an advisory lock on the calls to open the INI file. In the snippet below, the glue function ini\_openread sets a "shared" file lock (allowing others to also open the file for reading), but ini\_openwrite sets an "exclusive" lock on the file.

The lock can only be set after opening the file, which is why ini\_openwrite first attempts to open an existing file, and creates a new file if no existing file can be opened. If it had started by creating a new file, the call to fopen with the mode "w" would have truncated the file *before* aquiring the lock—thereby possibly truncating a locked file. If an existing file was indeed opened, and the lock aquired, it must now be explicitly truncated.

The flock function is blocking by default, meaning that it does not proceed if it cannot aquire the lock. It thereby implicitly functions as a kind of semaphore.

#### LISTING: Glue function using file locking

```
static inline int ini_openread(const char *filename, INI_FILETYPE *file) {
   if ((*file = fopen((filename), "r")) == NULL)
      return 0;
   return flock(fileno(*file), LOCK_SH) == 0;
}

static inline int ini_openwrite(const char *filename, INI_FILETYPE *file) {
   if ((*file = fopen((filename), "r+")) == NULL
      && (*file = fopen((filename), "w")) == NULL)
      return 0;
   if (flock(fileno(*file), LOCK_EX) < 0)
      return ftruncate(fileno(*file), 0);
}</pre>
```

Note that no "unlock" request is needed: the file is implicitly unlocked when the file is closed.

## Browsing through the file contents

The "browse" function ini\_browse processes the complete INI file and invokes a callback function for every setting that it reads from the file.

An alternative to browsing through the INI file is by enumerating the sections and the keys, see the next section. Browsing is more efficient when the whole INI file must be processed, enumeration allows you to scan only through specific sections.

### Key and section enumeration

MININI can list all sections in an INI file and all keys in a section, but in a different way than the function GetProfileString from the Microsoft Windows API. To list all sections, call function ini\_getsection with an incremental "index" number until it fails. Similarly, to list all keys in a section, call ini\_getkey with an incremental "index" number (plus the name of the section) until it fails.

LISTING: Browsing through all keys and all sections in "config.ini"

```
int s, k;
char section[40], key[40];
for (s = 0; ini_getsection(s, section, sizeof section, "config.ini") > 0; s++) {
    printf("[%s]\n", section);
    for (k = 0; ini getkey(section, k, key, size of key, "config.ini") > 0; k++)
        printf("\t%s\n", key);
} /* for */
```

### Function reference

In addition to the functions in plain C, minIni comes with a C<sup>++</sup> class. When creating a variable of the minIni class, you pass in the name of the INI file once, so that this name does not need to be passed to every other function. The class exists for the standard C<sup>++</sup> string library and for wxWidgets, using the wxString type. The function reference only lists the methods with the std::string type, but these are replaced by versions that use wxString when compiling for wxWidgets.

minIni::minIni class constructor

The minIni constructor creates an instance of the minIni class.

minIni(const std::string& filename) Syntax:

> filename The full file name of the INI file to use for all reads.

and writes, through this instance. The filename format and specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the under-

lying file I/O library.

Creating a class instance to read a setting ( $C^{++}$  only): Example:

```
minIni ini("config.ini");
std::string username = ini.gets("Users", "admin");
```

#### ini\_browse / minIni::browse

Browse through all settings

ini browse runs through the file and invokes a callback on every setting.

int ini\_browse(INI\_CALLBACK Callback, void \*UserData, Syntax: const char \*Filename)

bool browse(INI\_CALLBACK Callback, void \*UserData)

The function that is invoked on every setting, see the Callback

notes below.

A general-purpose application-defined value that is UserData

passed to the callback function.

Filename The name of the INI file. The filename format and

specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library. The  $C^{++}$  class uses the filename specified

in the class constructor.

Returns: 1/true on success, 0/false on failure.

Notes: The callback function is defined as:

The Section string may an empty string, for the settings that are outside any section. The UserData parameter is the same as what is passed to the ini browse function.

The callback function should return a non-zero value on success, or zero to abort further browsing through the INI file.

The callback function should not write into the INI file.

See also: ini\_getkey, ini\_getsection

minIni::del

Delete a section or a key

Delete a key or an entire section.

Syntax: bool del(const std::string& Section,

const std::string& Key)

bool del(const std::string& Section)

Section The name of the section.

Key The name of the key.

Returns: true on success, false on failure.

Notes: This method is the equivalent of ini puts with the parameter

Key and/or Value parameters to NULL.

This function is unavailable if MININI is configured as a read-only

library (page 6).

See also: ini\_puts

### ini\_getbool / minIni::getbool

Read a "truth" flag

ini\_getbool returns the zero for false or one for true, depending on the value that is found in the given section and at the given key.

Syntax: int ini\_getbool(const char \*Section, const char \*Key, int DefValue, const char \*Filename)

Section The name of the section. If this parameter is NULL or an empty string, the Key is searched outside any section.

Key The name of the key. This parameter may not be NULL.

DefValue The default value, which will be returned if the key is not present in the INI file. Even though it is declared as an "int" in the C interface, it should be either 0 (zero) or 1 (one).

Filename The name of the INI file. The filename format and specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library. The  $C^{++}$  class uses the filename specified in the class constructor.

Returns: The true/false flag as interpreted from the value read at the given key, or DefValue if the key is not present in the given section (or if it cannot be interpreted to either a "true" or a "false" flag).

Specifically, the return value depends on the first letter of the value read at the key. If that first character is:

- ⋄ "Y", "T" or "1", the function returns true (or 1);
- ⋄ "N", "F" or "0", the function returns false (or 0);
- anything else, the function returns parameter DefValue.

To set a boolean value in the C<sup>++</sup> interface, use minIni::put; For the C interface, use either ini\_putl. Alternatively, you can store texts like "Yes" and "No" at the key using minIni::put and ini\_puts.

See also: ini\_getl

Notes:

#### ini\_getf / minIni::getf

Read a rational number

ini getf returns the numeric value that is found in the given section and at the given key. The value may have a fractional part (i.e. rational numbers).

INI\_REAL ini\_getf(const char \*Section, const char \*Key, Syntax: INI\_REAL DefValue, const char \*Filename)

INI\_REAL getf(const std::string& Section,

const std::string& Key, INI\_REAL DefValue=0)

Section The name of the section. If this parameter is *NULL* or an empty string, the Key is searched outside any

section.

The name of the key. This parameter may not be Key

NULL.

DefValue The default value, which will be returned if the key

is not present in the INI file.

Filename The name of the INI file. The filename format and

specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library.The C<sup>++</sup> class uses the filename specified

in the class constructor.

Returns: The value read at the given key, or DefValue if the key is not

present in the given section.

Rational number support must have been enabled to use the Notes:

function —see page 6. The type for the rational numbers (the

INI REAL type), depends on the configuration of MININI.

See also: ini\_getl, ini\_putf

### ini\_getkey / minIni::getkey

Enumerate keys

Read the name of an indexed key inside a given section.

Syntax: int ini\_getkey(const char \*Section, int Index, char \*Buffer, int BufferSize,

const char \*Filename)

str::string getkey(const std::string& Section, int Index)

The name of the section. If this parameter is *NULL* Section or an empty string, the keys outside any section are enumerated.

Index The zero-based index of the key to return.

Buffer The buffer into which this function will store the key

name.

BufferSize The size of the buffer in parameter Buffer. This is the maximum number of characters that will be read

and stored.

Filename The name of the INI file. The filename format and

specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library. The  $C^{++}$  class uses the filename specified

in the class constructor.

Returns: The C function returns the number of characters that were read,

or zero if no (more) keys are present in the specified section. The

C<sup>++</sup> method returns the name of the key in a string.

Example: Enumerating keys in section "Devices":

```
int k;
char name[20];
for (k = 0; ini_getkey("Devices", k, name, 20, "config.ini") > 0; k++)
    printf("%s\n", name);
```

See also: ini\_browse, ini\_getsection

### ini\_getl / minIni::getl

Read a numeric value

ini\_getl returns the integer value (a "whole number") that is found in the given section and at the given key.

Syntax: long ini\_getl(const char \*Section, const char \*Key, long DefValue, const char \*Filename)

Section The name of the section. If this parameter is *NULL* or an empty string, the Key is searched outside any

section.

Key The name of the key. This parameter may not be NULL.

DefValue The default value, which will be returned if the key

is not present in the INI file.

The name of the INI file. The filename format and Filename

specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library. The C<sup>++</sup> class uses the filename specified

in the class constructor.

Returns: The value read at the given key, or DefValue if the key is not

present in the given section.

If the key is present, but it does not represent a decimal number,

this function may return zero or an incorrect value.

Notes: The number must be in decimal or in hexadecimal format. For

hexadecimal values, the value must be preceded with "0x"; for

example, 0x1234 stands for the decimal value 4660.

See also: ini\_getf, ini\_gets, ini\_putl

#### ini\_gets / minIni::gets

Read a string

ini gets reads the textual value that is found in the given section and at the given key.

int ini\_gets(const char \*Section, const char \*Key, Syntax:

const char \*DefValue, char \*Buffer, int BufferSize, const char \*Filename)

std::string gets(const std::string& Section,

const std::string& Key,

const std::string& DefValue="")

Section The name of the section. If this parameter is *NULL* 

or an empty string, the Key is searched outside any

section.

The name of the key. This parameter may not be Key

NULL.

The default value, which will be returned (in param-DefValue

eter Buffer) if the key is not present in the INI file.

Buffer The buffer into which this function will store the data

read.

BufferSize The size of the buffer in parameter Buffer. This is the maximum number of characters that will be read and stored.

The name of the INI file. The filename format and Filename

specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library.The C<sup>++</sup> class uses the filename specified in the class constructor.

The C function returns the number of characters that were read. Returns:

The  $C^{++}$  method returns the string read at the given key, or De-

fValue if the key is not present in the given section.

See also: ini\_getl, ini\_puts

### ini\_getsection / minIni::getsection

Enumerate sections

ini getsection reads the name of an indexed section.

int ini\_getsection(int Index, char \*Buffer, Syntax:

int BufferSize, const char \*Filename)

std::string getsection(int Index)

The zero-based index of the section to return. **Tndex** 

Buffer The buffer into which this function will store the sec-

tion name.

BufferSize The size of the buffer in parameter Buffer. This is

the maximum number of characters that will be read

and stored.

Filename The name of the INI file. The filename format and

> specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library. The  $C^{++}$  class uses the filename specified

in the class constructor.

The C function returns the number of characters that were read. Returns:

or zero if no (more) sections are present in the INI file. The C<sup>++</sup>

method returns the name of the section in a string.

Example: Enumerating all sections in file "config.ini":

```
int s:
char name[201:
for (s = 0; ini getsection(s, name, 20, "config.ini") > 0; s++)
    printf("%s\n", name);
```

See also: ini\_browse, ini\_getkey

#### ini\_putf / minIni::put

Store a rational number

ini putf stores the numeric value that in the given section and at the given key. The numeric value is written as a rational number, with a "whole part" and a fractional part.

Syntax: int ini\_putf(const char \*Section, const char \*Key,

INI\_REAL Value, const char \*Filename)

bool put(const std::string& Section,

const std::string& Key, INI\_REAL Value)

Section The name of the section. If this parameter is *NULL* 

or an empty string, the Key is stored outside any section (i.e. above the first section, if the INI file has any

sections).

Key The name of the key. This parameter may not be

NULL.

Value The value to write at the key and the section.

The name of the INI file. The filename format and Filename

> specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library.The C<sup>++</sup> class uses the filename specified

in the class constructor.

Returns: 1/true on success, 0/false on failure.

Notes: This function is unavailable if MININI is configured as a read-only

library (page 6). It is also unavailable if rational number support

has *not* been enabled (page 6).

The type for the rational numbers, INI REAL, depends on the con-

figuration of MININI.

See also: ini\_getf, ini\_putl

### ini\_putl / minIni::put

Store a numeric value

ini putl stores the numeric value that in the given section and at the given key.

Syntax: int ini\_putl(const char \*Section, const char \*Key, long Value, const char \*Filename)

> bool put(const std::string& Section. const std::string& Key, long Value)

Section The name of the section. If this parameter is *NULL* or an empty string, the Key is stored outside any section (i.e. above the first section, if the INI file has any

sections).

Key The name of the key. This parameter may not be

NUI.I.

Value The value to write at the key and the section.

The name of the INI file. The filename format and Filename

> specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library.The C<sup>++</sup> class uses the filename specified

in the class constructor.

Returns: 1/true on success, 0/false on failure.

Notes: This function is unavailable if MININI is configured as a read-only

library (page 6).

See also: ini\_getl, ini\_puts

#### ini\_puts / minIni::put

Store a string

ini puts stores the text parameter that in the given section and at the given key.

Syntax: int ini\_puts(const char \*Section, const char \*Key, const char \*Value, const char \*Filename)

> bool put(const std::string& Section, const std::string& Key, const std::string& Value)

bool put(const std::string& Section,

const std::string& Key, const char\* Value)

Section The name of the section. If this parameter is NULL

or an empty string, the Key is stored outside any section (i.e. above the first section, if the  ${\tt INI}$  file has any

sections).

Key The name of the key. If this parameter is *NULL*, the

function erases all keys (and their associated values)

from the section.

Value The text to write at the key and the section. This

string should not contain line breaking characters (such as carriage-return or line-feed characters). If this parameter is *NULL*, the function erases the

key/value pair.

Filename The name of the INI file. The filename format and

specifications, and whether or not this parameter may include a path, depends on the underlying file I/O library. The  $C^{++}$  class uses the filename specified

in the class constructor.

Returns: 1/true on success, 0/false on failure.

Notes: This function can also be used to delete entries or sections, by

setting the Key or Value parameters to NULL.

This function is unavailable if MININI is configured as a read-only

library (page 6).

See also: ini\_gets, ini\_putl

# Example glue files

### stdio (standard C/C++ library)

On Microsoft Windows or DOS, it is advised to open the INI file in binary mode, despite INI files being text files. If text mode is unavailable on yor platform, change "rb" and "wb" to "r" and "w" respectively.

```
/* map required file I/O types and functions to the standard C library */
#include <stdio.h>
#define INI FILETYPE
                                           FILE*
                                           ((*(file) = fopen((filename),"rb")) != NULL)
((*(file) = fopen((filename),"wb")) != NULL)
#define ini openread(filename,file)
#define ini openwrite(filename,file)
#define ini openrewrite(filename, file)
                                          ((*(file) = fopen((filename), "r+b")) != NULL)
                                           (fclose(*(file)) == 0)
#define ini close(file)
#define ini read(buffer, size, file)
                                           (fgets((buffer),(size),*(file)) != NULL)
#define ini write(buffer,file)
                                           (fputs((buffer),*(file)) >= 0)
#define ini rename(source,dest)
                                           (rename((source), (dest)) == 0)
#define ini remove(filename)
                                           (remove(filename) == 0)
#define INI FILEPOS
                                           long int
                                           (*(pos) = ftell(*(file)))
#define ini tell(file,pos)
#define ini seek(file,pos)
                                           (fseek(*(file), *(pos), SEEK_SET) == 0)
/* for floating-point support, define additional types and functions */
#define INI REAL
#define ini ftoa(string,value)
                                           sprintf((string), "%f", (value))
#define ini atof(string)
                                           (INI REAL)strtod((string), NULL)
```

#### CCS FAT library (http://www.ccsinfo.com)

```
/* maximum line length, maximum path length */
#define INI BUFFERSIZE 256
#ifndef FAT PIC C
  #error FAT library must be included before this module
#endif
#define const
                                  /* keyword not supported by CCS */
#define INI FILETYPE
                                      FILE
#define ini_openread(filename,file)
                                       (fatopen((filename), "r", (file)) == GOODEC)
                                       (fatopen((filename), "w", (file)) == GOODEC)
#define ini openwrite(filename, file)
#define ini close(file)
                                       (fatclose((file)) == 0)
#define ini read(buffer, size, file)
                                       (fatgets((buffer), (size), (file)) != NULL)
#define ini write(buffer,file)
                                       (fatputs((buffer), (file)) == GOODEC)
#define ini remove(filename)
                                       (rm_file((filename)) == 0)
#define INI FILEPOS
                                      fatpos t
#define ini_tell(file,pos)
                                       (fatgetpos((file), (pos)) == 0)
#define ini seek(file,pos)
                                      (fatsetpos((file), (pos)) == 0)
#ifndef INI READONLY
/* CCS FAT library lacks a rename function, so instead we copy the file to the
 * new name and delete the old file
```

```
*/
static int ini rename(char *source, char *dest)
  FILE fr. fw:
  int n;
  if (fatopen(source, "r", &fr) != GOODEC)
    return 0;
  if (rm file(dest) != 0)
    return 0;
  if (fatopen(dest, "w", &fw) != GOODEC)
    return 0;
  /* With some "insider knowledge", we can save some memory: the "source"
   st parameter holds a filename that was built from the "dest" parameter. It
   * was built in a local buffer with the size INI BUFFERSIZE. We can reuse
   * this buffer for copying the file.
  while (n=fatread(source, 1, INI BUFFERSIZE, &fr))
    fatwrite(source, 1, n, &fw);
  fatclose(&fr):
  fatclose(&fw):
  /* Now we need to delete the source file. However, we have garbled the buffer
   * that held the filename of the source. So we need to build it again.
  ini tempname(source, dest, INI BUFFERSIZE);
  return rm_file(source) == 0;
}
#endif
```

#### EFSL (http://www.efsl.be/)

```
/* maximum line length, maximum path length */
#define INI BUFFERSIZE
                        256
#define INI LINETERM
                        "\r\n"
                                  /* set line termination explicitly */
#include "efs.h"
extern EmbeddedFileSystem g_efs;
#define INI FILETYPE
                                      EmbeddedFile
#define ini openread(filename,file)
                                      (file fopen((file), &g efs.myFs, \
                                                   (char*)(filename), 'r') == 0)
#define ini openwrite(filename,file)
                                      (file_fopen((file), \&g_efs.myFs, \
                                                   (char*)(filename), 'w') == 0)
#define ini close(file)
                                      file fclose(file)
#define ini read(buffer, size, file)
                                      (file read((file), (size), (buffer)) > 0)
#define ini write(buffer,file)
                                      (file write((file), strlen(buffer), \
                                                   (char*)(buffer)) > 0)
                                      rmfile(&g_efs.myFs, (char*)(filename))
#define ini remove(filename)
#define INI FILEPOS
                                      euint32
#define ini tell(file,pos)
                                      (*(pos) = (file)->FilePtr))
#define ini seek(file,pos)
                                      file setpos((file), (*pos))
#if ! defined INI READONLY
/* EFSL lacks a rename function, so instead we copy the file to the new name
 * and delete the old file
*/
static int ini rename(char *source, const char *dest)
```

```
EmbeddedFile fr. fw:
  int n;
  if (file fopen(&fr, &g efs.myFs, source, 'r') != 0)
  if (rmfile(&g efs.myFs, (char*)dest) != 0)
    return 0;
  if (file fopen(&fw, &g efs.myFs, (char*)dest, 'w') != 0)
    return 0;
  /* With some "insider knowledge", we can save some memory: the "source"
   st parameter holds a filename that was built from the "dest" parameter. It
   st was built in buffer and this buffer has the size INI BUFFERSIZE. We can
   * reuse this buffer for copying the file.
  while (n=file read(&fr, INI BUFFERSIZE, source))
    file write(&fw. n. source):
  file fclose(&fr);
  file fclose(&fw);
  /* Now we need to delete the source file. However, we have garbled the buffer
   * that held the filename of the source. So we need to build it again.
  ini tempname(source, dest, INI BUFFERSIZE);
  return rmfile(&g efs.myFs, source) == 0;
#endif
```

#### FAT Filing System (http://www.embedded-code.com/)

```
/* maximum line length, maximum path length */
#define INI BUFFERSIZE
                         256
#include <mem-ffs.h>
#define INI FILETYPE
                                       FFS FILE*
#define ini openread(filename, file)
                                       ((*(file) = ffs fopen((filename), "r")) != NULL)
#define ini_openwrite(filename,file)
                                       ((*(file) = ffs fopen((filename), "w")) != NULL)
#define ini close(file)
                                        (ffs\ fclose(*(\overline{file})) == 0)
#define ini read(buffer, size, file)
                                        (ffs fgets((buffer),(size),*(file)) != NULL)
#define ini write(buffer,file)
                                        (ffs fputs((buffer),*(file)) >= 0)
#define ini rename(source,dest)
                                        (ffs rename((source), (dest)) == 0)
#define ini remove(filename)
                                        (ffs remove(filename) == 0)
#define INI FILEPOS
                                       long
#define ini tell(file,pos)
                                        (ffs fgetpos(*(file), (pos)) == 0)
#define ini seek(file,pos)
                                        (ffs\ fsetpos(*(file),\ (pos)) == 0)
```

#### FatFs (http://elm-chan.org/)

```
#define INI BUFFERSIZE 256
                                  /* maximum line length, maximum path length */
/* You must set USE STRFUNC to 1 or 2 in the include file ff.h (or tff.h)
* to enable the "string functions" fgets() and fputs().
#include "ff.h"
                                  /* include tff.h for Tiny-FatFs */
#define INI FILETYPE
#define ini openread(filename,file)
                                      (f open((file), (filename), \
                                              FA_READ+FA_OPEN_EXISTING) == FR OK)
#define ini openwrite(filename,file)
                                      (f open((file), (filename), \
                                              FA WRITE+FA CREATE ALWAYS) == FR OK)
#define ini close(file)
                                      (f close(file) == FR OK)
#define ini read(buffer, size, file)
                                      f gets((buffer), (size),(file))
#define ini write(buffer,file)
                                      f puts((buffer), (file))
#define ini remove(filename)
                                      (f unlink(filename) == FR OK)
#define INI FILEPOS
                                      DWORD
#define ini_tell(file,pos)
                                      (*(pos) = f tell((file)))
#define ini seek(file,pos)
                                      (f lseek((file), *(pos)) == FR OK)
static int ini rename(TCHAR *source, const TCHAR *dest)
  /* Function f rename() does not allow drive letters in the destination file */
  char *drive = strchr(dest, ':');
  drive = (drive == NULL) ? dest : drive + 1;
  return (f rename(source, drive) == FR OK);
}
```

#### "Memory Disk Drive" file system (Microchip)

```
/* maximum line length, maximum path length */
#define INI BUFFERSIZE 256
#include "MDD File System\fsio.h"
#include <string.h>
#define INI FILETYPE
                                       FSFILE*
#define ini openread(filename, file)
                                       ((*(file) = FSfopen((filename),FS READ)) !=
NULL)
#define ini openwrite(filename,file)
                                       ((*(file) = FSfopen((filename),FS WRITE)) !=
NULL)
#define ini openrewrite(filename,file) ((*(file) = fopen((filename),FS READPLUS)) !=
NULL)
#define ini close(file)
                                       (FSfclose(*(file)) == 0)
#define ini write(buffer,file)
                                     (FSfwrite((buffer), 1, strlen(buffer), (*file))
#define ini remove(filename)
                                       (FSremove((filename)) == 0)
#define INI FILEPOS
                                       long int
#define ini tell(file,pos)
                                       (*(pos) = FSftell(*(file)))
#define ini seek(file,pos)
                                       (FSfseek(*(file), *(pos), SEEK SET) == 0)
/* Since the Memory Disk Drive file system library reads only blocks of files,
 * the function to read a text line does so by "over-reading" a block of the
 * of the maximum size and truncating it behind the end-of-line.
static int ini_read(char *buffer, int size, INI FILETYPE *file)
```

```
size_t numread = size;
  char *eol;
  if ((numread = FSfread(buffer, 1, size, *file)) == 0)
                               /* at EOF */
    return 0;
  if ((eol = strchr(buffer, '\n')) == NULL)
   eol = strchr(buffer, '\r');
  if (eol != NULL) {
   /* terminate the buffer */
   *++eol = '\0';
   /* "unread" the data that was read too much */
   FSfseek(*file, - (int)(numread - (size_t)(eol - buffer)), SEEK_CUR);
  } /* if */
  return 1;
#ifndef INI READONLY
static int ini_rename(const char *source, const char *dest)
  FSFILE* ftmp = FSfopen((source), FS READ);
 FSrename((dest), ftmp);
  return FSfclose(ftmp) == 0;
#endif
```

APPENDIX **R** 

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