

## :mod:`xdrlib` --- Encode and decode XDR data

**System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 1); [backlink](#)

Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

**System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 4)

Unknown directive type "module".

```
.. module:: xdrlib
   :synopsis: Encoders and decoders for the External Data Representation (XDR).
   :deprecated:
```

Source code: `:source:`Lib/xdrlib.py``

**System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 8); [backlink](#)

Unknown interpreted text role "source".

**System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 10)

Unknown directive type "index".

```
.. index::
   single: XDR
   single: External Data Representation
```

**System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 14)

Unknown directive type "deprecated".

```
.. deprecated:: 3.11
   The :mod:`xdrlib` module is deprecated (see :pep:`594` for details).
```

---

The `:mod:`xdrlib`` module supports the External Data Representation Standard as described in [RFC 1014](#), written by Sun Microsystems, Inc. June 1987. It supports most of the data types described in the RFC.

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Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

The `:mod:`xdrlib`` module defines two classes, one for packing variables into XDR representation, and another for unpacking from XDR representation. There are also two exception classes.

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Unknown interpreted text role "mod".

`:class:`Packer`` is the class for packing data into XDR representation. The `:class:`Packer`` class is instantiated with no arguments.

**System Message: ERROR/3** (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 30); [backlink](#)

Unknown interpreted text role "class".

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Unknown interpreted text role "class".

Unpacker is the complementary class which unpacks XDR data values from a string buffer. The input buffer is given as *data*.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 40)**

Unknown directive type "seealso".

```
.. seealso::

   :rfc:`1014` - XDR: External Data Representation Standard
   This RFC defined the encoding of data which was XDR at the time this module was
   originally written. It has apparently been obsoleted by :rfc:`1832`.

   :rfc:`1832` - XDR: External Data Representation Standard
   Newer RFC that provides a revised definition of XDR.
```

## Packer Objects

`:class:`Packer`` instances have the following methods:

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 55); [backlink](#)**

Unknown interpreted text role "class".

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 58)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.get_buffer()

   Returns the current pack buffer as a string.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 63)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.reset()

   Resets the pack buffer to the empty string.
```

In general, you can pack any of the most common XDR data types by calling the appropriate `pack_type()` method. Each method takes a single argument, the value to pack. The following simple data type packing methods are supported: `:meth:`pack_uint``, `:meth:`pack_int``, `:meth:`pack_enum``, `:meth:`pack_bool``, `:meth:`pack_uhyper``, and `:meth:`pack_hyperm``.

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Unknown interpreted text role "meth".

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 67); [backlink](#)**

Unknown interpreted text role "meth".

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 67); [backlink](#)**

Unknown interpreted text role "meth".

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 67); [backlink](#)**

Unknown interpreted text role "meth".

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 67); [backlink](#)**

Unknown interpreted text role "meth".

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 67); [backlink](#)**

Unknown interpreted text role "meth".

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 74)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_float(value)

    Packs the single-precision floating point number *value*.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 79)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_double(value)

    Packs the double-precision floating point number *value*.
```

The following methods support packing strings, bytes, and opaque data:

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 86)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_fstring(n, s)

    Packs a fixed length string, *s*. *n* is the length of the string but it is
    *not* packed into the data buffer. The string is padded with null bytes if
    necessary to guaranteed 4 byte alignment.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 93)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_fopaque(n, data)

    Packs a fixed length opaque data stream, similarly to :meth:`pack_fstring`.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 98)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_string(s)
```

Packs a variable length string, \*s\*. The length of the string is first packed as an unsigned integer, then the string data is packed with :meth:`pack\_fstring`.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 105)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_opaque(data)
```

Packs a variable length opaque data string, similarly to :meth:`pack\_string`.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 110)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_bytes(bytes)
```

Packs a variable length byte stream, similarly to :meth:`pack\_string`.

The following methods support packing arrays and lists:

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 117)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_list(list, pack_item)
```

Packs a \*list\* of homogeneous items. This method is useful for lists with an indeterminate size; i.e. the size is not available until the entire list has been walked. For each item in the list, an unsigned integer ``1`` is packed first, followed by the data value from the list. \*pack\_item\* is the function that is called to pack the individual item. At the end of the list, an unsigned integer ``0`` is packed.

For example, to pack a list of integers, the code might appear like this::

```
import xdrlib
p = xdrlib.Packer()
p.pack_list([1, 2, 3], p.pack_int)
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 133)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_farray(n, array, pack_item)
```

Packs a fixed length list (\*array\*) of homogeneous items. \*n\* is the length of the list; it is \*not\* packed into the buffer, but a :exc:`ValueError` exception is raised if ``len(array)`` is not equal to \*n\*. As above, \*pack\_item\* is the function used to pack each element.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 141)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Packer.pack_array(list, pack_item)
```

Packs a variable length \*list\* of homogeneous items. First, the length of the list is packed as an unsigned integer, then each element is packed as in :meth:`pack\_farray` above.

## Unpacker Objects

The `:class:`Unpacker`` class offers the following methods:

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 153); [backlink](#)**

Unknown interpreted text role "class".

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 156)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.reset(data)

    Resets the string buffer with the given *data*.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 161)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.get_position()

    Returns the current unpack position in the data buffer.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 166)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.set_position(position)

    Sets the data buffer unpack position to *position*. You should be careful about
    using :meth:`get_position` and :meth:`set_position`.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 172)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.get_buffer()

    Returns the current unpack data buffer as a string.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 177)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.done()

    Indicates unpack completion. Raises an :exc:`Error` exception if all of the
    data has not been unpacked.
```

In addition, every data type that can be packed with a `:class:`Packer``, can be unpacked with an `:class:`Unpacker``. Unpacking methods are of the form `unpack_type()`, and take no arguments. They return the unpacked object.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 182); [backlink](#)**

Unknown interpreted text role "class".

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Unknown interpreted text role "class".

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 187)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_float()

    Unpacks a single-precision floating point number.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 192)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_double()

    Unpacks a double-precision floating point number, similarly to
    :meth:`unpack_float`.
```

In addition, the following methods unpack strings, bytes, and opaque data:

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 200)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_fstring(n)

    Unpacks and returns a fixed length string. *n* is the number of characters
    expected. Padding with null bytes to guaranteed 4 byte alignment is assumed.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 206)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_fopaque(n)

    Unpacks and returns a fixed length opaque data stream, similarly to
    :meth:`unpack_fstring`.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 212)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_string()

    Unpacks and returns a variable length string. The length of the string is first
    unpacked as an unsigned integer, then the string data is unpacked with
    :meth:`unpack_fstring`.
```

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 219)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_opaque()
```

Unpacks and returns a variable length opaque data string, similarly to  
:meth:`unpack\_string`.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 225)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_bytes()
```

Unpacks and returns a variable length byte stream, similarly to  
:meth:`unpack\_string`.

The following methods support unpacking arrays and lists:

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 233)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_list(unpack_item)
```

Unpacks and returns a list of homogeneous items. The list is unpacked one element at a time by first unpacking an unsigned integer flag. If the flag is ``1``, then the item is unpacked and appended to the list. A flag of ``0`` indicates the end of the list. \*unpack\_item\* is the function that is called to unpack the items.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 242)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_farray(n, unpack_item)
```

Unpacks and returns (as a list) a fixed length array of homogeneous items. \*n\* is number of list elements to expect in the buffer. As above, \*unpack\_item\* is the function used to unpack each element.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 249)**

Unknown directive type "method".

```
.. method:: Unpacker.unpack_array(unpack_item)
```

Unpacks and returns a variable length \*list\* of homogeneous items. First, the length of the list is unpacked as an unsigned integer, then each element is unpacked as in :meth:`unpack\_farray` above.

## Exceptions

Exceptions in this module are coded as class instances:

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 264)**

Unknown directive type "exception".

```
.. exception:: Error
```

The base exception class. :exc:`Error` has a single public attribute  
:attr:`msg` containing the description of the error.

**System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\cpython-main\Doc\library\ (cpython-main) (Doc) (library)xdrlib.rst, line 270)**

Unknown directive type "exception".

```
.. exception:: ConversionError
```

```
Class derived from :exc:`Error`. Contains no additional instance variables.
```

Here is an example of how you would catch one of these exceptions:

```
import xdrlib
p = xdrlib.Packer()
try:
    p.pack_double(8.01)
except xdrlib.ConversionError as instance:
    print('packing the double failed:', instance.msg)
```