

## NAME

NDBM\_File - Tied access to ndbm files

## SYNOPSIS

```
use Fcntl;    # For O_RDWR, O_CREAT, etc.
use NDBM_File;

tie(%h, 'NDBM_File', 'filename', O_RDWR|O_CREAT, 0666)
    or die "Couldn't tie NDBM file 'filename': $!; aborting";

# Now read and change the hash
$h{newkey} = newvalue;
print $h{oldkey};
...

untie %h;
```

## DESCRIPTION

NDBM\_File establishes a connection between a Perl hash variable and a file in NDBM\_File format;. You can manipulate the data in the file just as if it were in a Perl hash, but when your program exits, the data will remain in the file, to be used the next time your program runs.

Use NDBM\_File with the Perl built-in `tie` function to establish the connection between the variable and the file. The arguments to `tie` should be:

1. The hash variable you want to tie.
2. The string "NDBM\_File". (This tells Perl to use the NDBM\_File package to perform the functions of the hash.)
3. The name of the file you want to tie to the hash.
4. Flags. Use one of:  
`O_RDONLY`  
Read-only access to the data in the file.  
`O_WRONLY`  
Write-only access to the data in the file.  
`O_RDWR`  
Both read and write access.  
If you want to create the file if it does not exist, add `O_CREAT` to any of these, as in the example. If you omit `O_CREAT` and the file does not already exist, the `tie` call will fail.
5. The default permissions to use if a new file is created. The actual permissions will be modified by the user's `umask`, so you should probably use 0666 here. (See "*umask*" in *perlfunc*.)

## DIAGNOSTICS

On failure, the `tie` call returns an undefined value and probably sets `$!` to contain the reason the file could not be tied.

### ndbm store returned -1, errno 22, key "..." at ...

This warning is emitted when you try to store a key or a value that is too long. It means that the change was not recorded in the database. See **BUGS AND WARNINGS** below.

## BUGS AND WARNINGS

There are a number of limits on the size of the data that you can store in the NDBM file. The most important is that the length of a key, plus the length of its associated value, may not exceed 1008 bytes.

See *"tie" in perlfunc, perldbmfilter, Fcntl*