NAME

IO::Seekable - supply seek based methods for I/O objects

SYNOPSIS

```
use IO::Seekable;
package IO::Something;
@ISA = qw(IO::Seekable);
```

DESCRIPTION

`IO::Seekable` does not have a constructor of its own as it is intended to be inherited by other `IO::Handle` based objects. It provides methods which allow seeking of the file descriptors.

$io->getpos

Returns an opaque value that represents the current position of the IO::File, or `undef` if this is not possible (eg an unseekable stream such as a terminal, pipe or socket). If the fgetpos() function is available in your C library it is used to implements getpos, else perl emulates getpos using C's ftell() function.

$io->setpos

Uses the value of a previous getpos call to return to a previously visited position. Returns "0 but true" on success, `undef` on failure.

See *perlfunc* for complete descriptions of each of the following supported `IO::Seekable` methods, which are just front ends for the corresponding built-in functions:

$io->seek (POS, WHENCE)

Seek the IO::File to position POS, relative to WHENCE:

WHENCE=0 (SEEK_SET)

POS is absolute position. (Seek relative to the start of the file)

WHENCE=1 (SEEK_CUR)

POS is an offset from the current position. (Seek relative to current)

WHENCE=2 (SEEK_END)

POS is an offset from the end of the file. (Seek relative to end)

The SEEK_* constants can be imported from the `Fcntl` module if you don't wish to use the numbers `0` `1` or `2` in your code.

Returns `1` upon success, `0` otherwise.

$io->sysseek(POS, WHENCE)

Similar to $io->seek, but sets the IO::File's position using the system call lseek(2) directly, so will confuse most perl IO operators except sysread and syswrite (see *perlfunc* for full details)

Returns the new position, or `undef` on failure. A position of zero is returned as the string `"0 but true"`

$io->tell

Returns the IO::File's current position, or -1 on error.

SEE ALSO

perlfunc, *"I/O Operators" in perlop*, *IO::Handle IO::File*

HISTORY

Derived from FileHandle.pm by Graham Barr <gbarr@pobox.com>