NAME

readfile – return the entire contents of a file as a string

SYNOPSIS

```
@load "readfile"

result = readfile("/some/path")
```

For making whole files be single records:

```
@load "readfile"
BEGIN { PROCINFO["readfile"] = 1 }
```

DESCRIPTION

The *readfile* extension adds a single function named **readfile()**. The argument is the name of the file to read. The return value is a string containing the entire contents of the requested file.

Upon error, the function returns the empty string and sets **ERRNO**.

In addition, it adds an input parser that is activated if PROCINFO["readfile"] exists. When activated, each input file is returned in its entirety as $0. RT is set to the null string.

EXAMPLE

```
@load "readfile"
...
contents = readfile("/path/to/file");
if (contents == "" && ERRNO != "") {
    print("problem reading file", ERRNO) > "/dev/stderr"
    ...
}
```

SEE ALSO

GAWK: Effective AWK Programming, *filefuncs*(3am), *fnmatch*(3am), *fork*(3am), *inplace*(3am), *ord-chr*(3am), *readdir*(3am), *revoutput*(3am), *rwarray*(3am), *time*(3am).

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