

# readfile

(PHP 4, PHP 5, PHP 7)  
readfile — Outputs a file

## Description

```
int readfile ( string $filename [, bool $use_include_path = false [, resource $context ]] )
```

Reads a file and writes it to the output buffer.

## Parameters

### filename

The filename being read.

### use\_include\_path

You can use the optional second parameter and set it to `TRUE`, if you want to search for the file in the [include\\_path](#), too.

### context

A context stream [resource](#).

## Return Values

Returns the number of bytes read from the file. If an error occurs, `FALSE` is returned and unless the function was called as `@readfile()`, an error message is printed.

## Examples

Example #1 Forcing a download using readfile()

```
<?php
$file = 'monkey.gif';

if (file_exists($file)) {
```

```
header('Content-Description: File Transfer');
header('Content-Type: application/octet-stream');
header('Content-Disposition: attachment; filename="'.basename($file).'"');
header('Expires: 0');
header('Cache-Control: must-revalidate');
header('Pragma: public');
header('Content-Length: ' . filesize($file));
readfile($file);
exit;
}
?>
```

The above example will output something similar to:

