NAME

fopen, fdopen, freopen - stream open functions

SYNOPSIS

```
#include <stdio.h>

FILE *fopen(const char *pathname, const char *mode);

FILE *fdopen(int fd, const char *mode);

FILE *freopen(const char *pathname, const char *mode, FILE *stream);
```

Feature Test Macro Requirements for glibc (see feature_test_macros(7)):

fdopen(): _POSIX_C_SOURCE

DESCRIPTION

The **fopen**() function opens the file whose name is the string pointed to by *pathname* and associates a stream with it.

The argument *mode* points to a string beginning with one of the following sequences (possibly followed by additional characters, as described below):

r Open text file for reading. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.

r+ Open for reading and writing. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.

w Truncate file to zero length or create text file for writing. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.

w+ Open for reading and writing. The file is created if it does not exist, otherwise it is truncated. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.

a Open for appending (writing at end of file). The file is created if it does not exist. The stream is positioned at the end of the file.

a+ Open for reading and appending (writing at end of file). The file is created if it does not exist. The initial file position for reading is at the beginning of the file, but output is always appended to the end of the file.

The *mode* string can also include the letter 'b' either as a last character or as a character between the characters in any of the two-character strings described above. This is strictly for compatibility with C89 and has no effect; the 'b' is ignored on all POSIX conforming systems, including Linux. (Other systems may treat text files and binary files differently, and adding the 'b' may be a good idea if you do I/O to a binary file and expect that your program may be ported to non-UNIX environments.)

See NOTES below for details of glibc extensions for *mode*.

Any created file will have the mode **S_IRUSR** | **S_IWUSR** | **S_IRGRP** | **S_IROTH** | **S_IWOTH** (0666), as modified by the process's umask value (see umask(2)).

Reads and writes may be intermixed on read/write streams in any order. Note that ANSI C requires that a file positioning function intervene between output and input, unless an input operation encounters end-of-file. (If this condition is not met, then a read is allowed to return the result of writes other than the most recent.) Therefore it is good practice (and indeed sometimes necessary under Linux) to put an fseek(3) or fgetpos(3) operation between write and read operations on such a stream. This operation may be an apparent no-op (as in *fseek(..., 0L, SEEK_CUR)* called for its synchronizing side effect).

Opening a file in append mode (**a** as the first character of *mode*) causes all subsequent write operations to this stream to occur at end-of-file, as if preceded the call:

```
fseek(stream, 0, SEEK_END);
```

The file descriptor associated with the stream is opened as if by a call to open(2) with the following flags:

fopen() mode	open() flags
r	O_RDONLY
w	O_WRONLY | O_CREAT | O_TRUNC
a	O_WRONLY | O_CREAT | O_APPEND
r+	O_RDWR
w+	O_RDWR | O_CREAT | O_TRUNC
a+	O_RDWR | O_CREAT | O_APPEND

fdopen()
The **fdopen**() function associates a stream with the existing file descriptor, *fd*. The *mode* of the stream (one of the values "r", "r+", "w", "w+", "a", "a+") must be compatible with the mode of the file descriptor. The file position indicator of the new stream is set to that belonging to *fd*, and the error and end-of-file indicators are cleared. Modes "w" or "w+" do not cause truncation of the file. The file descriptor is not dup'ed, and will be closed when the stream created by **fdopen**() is closed. The result of applying **fdopen**() to a shared memory object is undefined.

freopen()
The **freopen**() function opens the file whose name is the string pointed to by *pathname* and associates the stream pointed to by *stream* with it. The original stream (if it exists) is closed. The *mode* argument is used just as in the **fopen**() function.

If the *pathname* argument is a null pointer, **freopen**() changes the mode of the stream to that specified in *mode*; that is, **freopen**() reopens the pathname that is associated with the stream. The specification for this behavior was added in the C99 standard, which says:

> In this case, the file descriptor associated with the stream need not be closed if the call to **freopen**() succeeds. It is implementation-defined which changes of mode are permitted (if any), and under what circumstances.

The primary use of the **freopen**() function is to change the file associated with a standard text stream (*stderr*, *stdin*, or *stdout*).

RETURN VALUE

Upon successful completion **fopen**(), **fdopen**() and **freopen**() return a *FILE* pointer. Otherwise, NULL is returned and *errno* is set to indicate the error.

ERRORS

EINVAL The *mode* provided to **fopen**(), **fdopen**(), or **freopen**() was invalid.

The **fopen**(), **fdopen**() and **freopen**() functions may also fail and set *errno* for any of the errors specified for the routine malloc(3).

The **fopen**() function may also fail and set *errno* for any of the errors specified for the routine open(2).

The **fdopen**() function may also fail and set *errno* for any of the errors specified for the routine fcntl(2).

The **freopen**() function may also fail and set *errno* for any of the errors specified for the routines open(2), fclose(3), and fflush(3).

ATTRIBUTES

For an explanation of the terms used in this section, see attributes(7).

Interface	Attribute	Value
fopen(), **fdopen**(), **freopen**()	Thread safety	MT-Safe

CONFORMING TO

fopen(), **freopen**(): POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008, C89, C99.

fdopen(): POSIX.1-2001, POSIX.1-2008.

NOTES

Glibc notes
The GNU C library allows the following extensions for the string specified in *mode*:

c (since glibc 2.3.3)
Do not make the open operation, or subsequent read and write operations, thread cancellation points. This flag is ignored for **fdopen**().

e (since glibc 2.7)
Open the file with the **O_CLOEXEC** flag. See open(2) for more information. This flag is ignored for **fdopen**().

m (since glibc 2.3)
Attempt to access the file using mmap(2), rather than I/O system calls (read(2), write(2)). Currently, use of mmap(2) is attempted only for a file opened for reading.

x Open the file exclusively (like the **O_EXCL** flag of open(2)). If the file already exists, **fopen**() fails, and sets *errno* to **EEXIST**. This flag is ignored for **fdopen**().

In addition to the above characters, **fopen**() and **freopen**() support the following syntax in *mode*:

```
,ccs=string
```

The given *string* is taken as the name of a coded character set and the stream is marked as wide-oriented. Thereafter, internal conversion functions convert I/O to and from the character set *string*. If the ,**ccs**=*string* syntax is not specified, then the wide-orientation of the stream is determined by the first file operation. If that operation is a wide-character operation, the stream is marked wide-oriented, and functions to convert to the coded character set are loaded.

BUGS

When parsing for individual flag characters in *mode* (i.e., the characters preceding the "ccs" specification), the glibc implementation of **fopen**() and **freopen**() limits the number of characters examined in *mode* to 7 (or, in glibc versions before 2.14, to 6, which was not enough to include possible specifications such as "rbxcmxe"). The current implementation of **fdopen**() parses at most 5 characters in *mode*.

SEE ALSO

open(2), fclose(3), fileno(3), fmemopen(3), fopencookie(3), open_memstream(3)

COLOPHON

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Pages that refer to this page: open(2), fclose(3), fcloseall(3), ferror(3), fflush(3), fgetc(3), fgetgrent(3), fgetpwent(3), fgetwc(3), fgetws(3), fmemopen(3), fopencookie(3), fputwc(3), fputws(3), getline(3), getmntent(3), getta(3), open_memstream(3), pmopenlog(3), popen(3), pthread_getattr_np(3), puts(3), setbuf(3), stdin(3), stdio(3)