

# **CS 241: Systems Programming**

## **Lecture 21. Binary and Formatted I/O**

Fall 2019

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# Review from last time

```
// Open and close a file.  
FILE *fopen(char const *path, char const *mode);  
int fclose(FILE *stream);  
  
// Read or write a character.  
int fgetc(FILE *stream);  
int fputc(int ch, FILE *stream);  
  
// Read or write a string.  
char *fgets(char *str, int size, FILE *stream);  
int fputs(char const *str, FILE *stream);  
  
// Formatted output.  
int fprintf(FILE *stream, char const *format, ...);
```

# re-reading a file

```
void rewind(FILE *stream);
```

- ▶ resets the file back to the start of the stream
- ▶ NOTE: no return value
  - zero out and check errno for problems

Actually is an alias for...

# Changing location in a file

```
int fseek(FILE *stream, long offset, int whence);  
int fseeko(FILE *stream, off_t offset, int whence);
```

- ▶ Return 0 on success, -1 on failure (errno)

Reposition location in stream

- ▶ `offset` is number of bytes added to position specified by `whence`
  - `SEEK_SET` - start of the file
  - `SEEK_CUR` - current position
  - `SEEK_END` - end of the file

# Getting location in file

```
long ftell(FILE *stream);
```

```
off_t ftello(FILE *stream);
```

- ▶ returns current offset on success
- ▶ returns -1 and sets errno on failure

`fseeko` and `ftello` are specified by POSIX but not C

`off_t` is an integral type representing file sizes (often 8 bytes)

How can we get the size of a file to which we have an open  
`FILE *stream`?

- A. `off_t size = ftello(stream);`
- B. `fseeko(stream, 0, SEEK_SET);`  
`off_t size = ftello(stream);`
- C. `fseeko(stream, 0, SEEK_CUR);`  
`off_t size = ftello(stream);`
- D. `fseeko(stream, 0, SEEK_END);`  
`off_t size = ftello(stream);`
- E. `off_t pos = ftello(stream);`  
`fseeko(stream, 0, SEEK_END);`  
`off_t size = ftello(stream);`  
`fseeko(stream, pos,`  
`SEEK_SET);`

```
int get_file_size(char const *path, off_t *size) {
    FILE *fp = fopen(path, "rb");
    if (!fp)
        return -1;

    int ret = -1;
    if (fseeko(fp, 0, SEEK_END) == 0) {
        if ((*size = ftello(fp)) != -1)
            ret = 0;
    }
    int err = errno;
    fclose(fp);
    errno = err;
    return ret;
}
```

```
int get_file_size(char const *path, off_t *size) {
    FILE *fp = fopen(path, "rb");
    if (!fp)
        return -1;

    int ret = -1;
    if (fseeko(fp, 0, SEEK_END) == 0) {
        if ((*size = ftello(fp)) != -1)
            ret = 0;
    }
    int err = errno;
    fclose(fp);
    errno = err;
    return ret;
}
```

fclose() might change errno



```
int main(int argc, char *argv[argc]) {
    for (int i = 1; i < argc; ++i) {
        off_t size;
        if (get_file_size(argv[i], &size) == -1) {
            perror(argv[i]);
        } else {
            long long s = size; // No way to print off_t.
            printf("%s: %llu\n", argv[i], s);
        }
    }
    return 0;
}
```

# DANGER: Format String Attacks

Don't just print arbitrary users strings

```
printf(line);
```

If the attacker sets the value of **line** they can

- ▶ Cause it to reveal other program data by printing it from the program stack (e.g., "**%x%x%x**")
- ▶ Can cause it to change program data by using "**%n**" which stores # of chars printed so far

# Printing to a string

```
int snprintf(char *str, size_t size,  
            char const *format, ...);
```

- Writes at most size-1 bytes into str and null terminates
- Returns number of bytes that are printed (or would be printed if the string were large enough), negative on error

```
char message[100];  
snprintf(message, sizeof message, "%s %d",  
         some_string, some_int);  
/* or */  
size_t size = snprintf(0, 0, "%s %d", str, x);  
char *message = malloc(size + 1);  
snprintf(message, size+1, "%s %d", str, x);
```

# Formatted input

```
int scanf(const char *format, ...);
```

- ▶ input analog to `printf()`
- ▶ reads input from `stdin`
- ▶ uses format string to determine types
- ▶ arguments must be **pointers**
  - common error
- ▶ Stops when
  - format string is done
  - input mismatch
- ▶ returns # of successfully matched items
- ▶ returns EOF on EOF (not 0)

# scanf format string interpretation

White space matches 0 or more white space characters in the input

Ordinary characters are matched against non-whitespace

Conversion specifications: e.g., `%8lx`

- ▶ `%` to indicate start (like `printf`)
- ▶ `*` indicates not to store the value
- ▶ number for field width
- ▶ `hh, h, l`: size of storage character
- ▶ conversion character (see `printf`)
- ▶ Most conversion specifiers skip white space (all but `% [ ... ]`)

# Example

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    int pairs = 0;
    int x, y;
    while (scanf(" (%d , %d )", &x, &y) == 2)
        ++pairs;
    printf("Read in %d valid pairs.\n", pairs);
    return 0;
}
```

Spaces in the format match white space characters, the %d skips white space so ( 1 , 2 ) are ( 3 , 4 ) both valid, but ( 0 , 1 ( 2 , 3 ( 4 , 5 gives 3 valid pairs!

# scanf family

```
int fscanf(FILE *stream, const char *format, ...);
```

```
int sscanf(const char *str, const char *format, ...);
```

# Character ranges

`%s` matches a sequence of non-whitespace characters

`[%chars]` matches a range of characters, which can include whitespace

```
char html_tag[32];  
sscanf(line, "<%31[^>>", html_tag);
```



Assume we have an integer variable x, how do I read in a decimal value?

```
int x;
```

A. `scanf( "%x" );`

B. `scanf( "%d", x );`

C. `scanf( "%d", &x );`

D. `scanf( "%d", *x );`

E. `scanf( "%x", &x );`

Assume we have a char array `word`, how do I read in a text string?

```
char word[16];
```

A. `scanf( "&word" );`

B. `scanf( "%15s", word );`

C. `scanf( "%16s", word );`

D. `scanf( "%s", &word );`

E. `scanf( "%s", *word );`

# Useful input technique

`fgets()` / `sscanf()` pairing

- Read a line using `fgets()`
- Parses data using `sscanf()` from line

Always does bounds checking

# Binary data

```
size_t fread(void *ptr, size_t size, size_t nitems,  
             FILE *stream);
```

```
size_t fwrite(void const *ptr, size_t size,  
             size_t nitems, FILE *stream);
```

- ▶ Read/write nitems number of size sized objects
- ▶ Returns the number of objects read/written which will be less than nitems for EOF or an error
- ▶ Must use feof() or ferror() to determine which occurred

```
int x = 42;
```

```
float y[8];
```

```
size_t num = fread(y, sizeof(float), 8, stream);
```

```
num = fwrite(&x, sizeof(int), 1, stream);
```

# In-class exercise

<https://checkoway.net/teaching/cs241/2019-fall/exercises/Lecture-21.html>

Grab a laptop and a partner and try to get as much of that done as you can!