

Re: fclose then fopen equivalent for stdout?

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Eric Sosman wrote:

David Mathog wrote On 10/25/06 12:48,:

A program of mine writes to a tape unit. Output can be either through stdout or through a file opened with fopen(). When all the data is transferred to tape the program needs to close the output stream so that the tape driver will write a filemark on the tape. Otherwise multiple clumps of data saved to tape would all appear to be one big file on the tape.

When the tape unit device was explicitly opened with fopen() that's possible: call fclose() and then for the next batch of data fopen() the tape device again and write some more.

However when data is going through stdout like:

```
program > /dev/nst0
```

is there an equivalent operation? Maybe something like this:

```
fputc(stdout,EOF);
```

(Corrected to fputc(EOF, stdout) in a follow-up.)

No, this would merely write a character to the output. The identity of exactly which character gets written is a little fuzzy in that it depends on the value of the EOF macro (usually -1, but could be another negative integer) and on what you get when converting that value to a char in the local encoding.

or this

```
freopen(NULL,"wb",stdout);
```

Re: fclose then fopen equivalent for stdout?

Undefined behavior: The first argument is supposed to be a string (a string that names a file), but NULL is not a string. It's much like trying `fopen(NULL, "wb")`.

Actually, `freopen()` has special behaviour for a NULL filename. I don't know enough about it to know if that special behaviour is useful here, though.

Here's a suggestion: You're trying to obtain the effect of `fclose()`, right? Does any particular function spring to mind as being likely to perform the operations of `fclose()`? How about ... <<wait for it>> ... `fclose()`?

So how do you write to stdout again after closing it?

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