

**NAME**

read – read from file

**SYNOPSIS**

(read = 3.)

(file descriptor in r0)

**sys read; buffer; nbytes**

**read(fildes, buffer, nbytes)**

**char \*buffer;**

**DESCRIPTION**

A file descriptor is a word returned from a successful *open*, *creat*, or *pipe* call. *Buffer* is the location of *nbytes* contiguous bytes into which the input will be placed. It is not guaranteed that all *nbytes* bytes will be read; for example if the file refers to a typewriter at most one line will be returned. In any event the number of characters read is returned (in r0).

If the returned value is 0, then end-of-file has been reached.

**SEE ALSO**

open(II), creat(II), pipe(II)

**DIAGNOSTICS**

As mentioned, 0 is returned when the end of the file has been reached. If the read was otherwise unsuccessful the error bit (c-bit) is set. Many conditions can generate an error: physical I/O errors, bad buffer address, preposterous *nbytes*, file descriptor not that of an input file. From C, a -1 return indicates the error.