



Note: This API call is for DOS and Win16 personality only. Use [Family API](#) for portability.

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Int 21H, AH=3FH

Version

2 and higher

Brief

“READ” - READ FROM FILE OR DEVICE

Family API

Input

```
AH = 3Fh
BX = file handle
CX = number of bytes to read
DS:DX -> buffer for data
```

Return

CF clear if successful

```
AX = number of bytes actually read (0 if at EOF before call)
CF set on error
AX = error code (05h,06h) (see #01680 at AH=59h/BX=0000h)
```

Notes

data is read beginning at current file position, and the file position is updated after a successful read
the returned AX may be smaller than the request in CX if a partial read occurred

if reading from CON, read stops at first CR

under the FlashTek X-32 DOS extender, the pointer is in DS:EDX

BUG: Novell NETX.EXE v3.26 and 3.31 do not set CF if the read fails due to a record lock (see AH=5Ch), though it does return AX=0005h; this has been documented by Novell

See also

AH=27h,AH=40h,INT 2F/AX=1108h,INT 2F/AX=1229h

Note

Text based on [Ralf Brown Interrupt List Release 61](#)

DOS API	
Process manager	INT 20H, INT 21H : 00H, 25H, 26H, 31H, 34H, 35H, 4BH, 4CH, 4DH, 50H, 51H, 52H, 55H, 62H, INT 22H, INT 27H, INT 28H
File manager	INT 25H, INT 26H, INT 21H : 0DH, 0EH, 0FH, 10H, 11H, 12H, 13H, 14H, 15H, 16H, 17H, 19H, 1AH, 1BH, 1CH, 21H, 22H, 23H, 24H, 27H, 28H, 29H, 2EH, 2FH, 32H, 3305H, 36H, 39H, 3AH, 3BH, 3CH, 3DH, 3EH, 3FH, 40H, 41H, 42H, 4300H, 4301H, 45H, 45H, 46H, 4EH, 4FH, 54H, 56H, 5700H, 5701H, 5AH, 5BH, 5c00H, 5c01H, 60H, 67H, 68H, 6900H, 6901H, 6AH, 6CH
Character Device I/O	INT 29H, INT 21H : 01H, 02H, 03H, 04H, 05H, 06H, 07H, 08H, 09H, 0AH, 0BH, 0AH, 0CH, 5D07H, 5D08H, 5D09H, 5D0AH
Signals	INT 23H, INT 24H, INT 21H : 3300H, 3301H, 3302H
Memory manager	INT 21H : 48H, 49H, 4AH, 5800H, 5801H, 5802H, 5803H
Date and Time	INT 21H : 2AH, 2BH, 2CH, 2DH
Misc	INT 21H : 30H, 3306H, 3700H, 3701H, 3702H, 3703H, 59H
NLS	INT 21H : 3303H, 3304H, 3800H, 3801H, 6300H, 6301H, 6301H, 6500H, 6501H, 6502H, 6503H, 6504H, 6505H, 6506H, 6507H, 6520H, 6521H, 6522H, 6523H, 65A0H, 65A1H, 65A2H, 6601H, 6602H
Devices	INT 21H : 4400H, 4401H, 4402H, 4403H, 4404H, 4405H, 4406H, 4407H, 4408H, 4409H, 440AH, 440BH, 440CH, 440DH, 440EH, 440FH, 4410H, 4411H, 53H
Network	INT 21H : 5E00H, 5E01H, 5E02H, 5E03H, 5E04H, 5E05H, 5F00H, 5F01H, 5F02H, 5F03H, 5F04H, 5F05H, 5F07H, 5F08H
osFree Macro Library	
Video I/O	@SetMode @SetCurSz @SetCurPos @GetCur @SetPage @ScrollUp @ScrollDn @Scroll @GetChAtr @PutChAtr @PutCh @SetPalet @SetColor @SetDot @GetDot @WrtTTY @VideoState @GetMode @GetDisplay @GetVideoState @GetEGAInfo @Cls
Hardware info	@Equipment @MemSize
Serial I/O	@AuxInit @AuxSendChar @AuxRecieveChar @AuxStatus
Tape I/O	@TapeOn @TapeOff @TapeRead @TapeWrite
Keyboard I/O	@KbdStatus @CharIn @CharPeek
Printer I/O	@PrnPrint @PrnInit @PrnStatus

osFree Macro Library	
Disk I/O	@DskReset @DskStatus @DskRead @DskWrite @DskVerify @DskFormat
Date and Time	@SetTime @GetTime
Mouse	@MouInit @MouShowPointer @MouStatus @MouSetPos @MouSetMickey @MouRegion
Memory manager	@ModBlok SET_BLOCK

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Family API		
DOS	Process Manager	DosBeep DosExit DosSleep DosExecPgm
	File Manager	DosChDir DosChgFilePtr DosClose DosDelete DosDupHandle DosMkDir DosMove DosQCurDir DosQCurDisk DosSetFileMode DosOpen DosQFileInfo DosRead DosQFileMode DosQFSInfo DosQVerify DosRmDir DosSelectDisk DosFindClose DosFindFirst DosFindNext DosSetFileInfo DosSetVerify DosWrite DosFileLocks DosSetFHandState DosNewSize DosBufReset DosQFHandState DosSetFSinfo DosShutdown
	Memory Manager	DosFreeSeg DosSubAlloc DosSubFree DosSubSet DosAllocHuge DosAllocSeg DosReallocHuge DosReallocSeg DosGetHugeShift DosCreateCSAlias
	NLS	DosCaseMap DosGetCtryInfo DosGetDBCSEv DosSetCtryCode DosGetCollate DosGetMessage DosInsMessage DosPutMessage
	Date and Time	DosSetDateTime DosGetDateTime
	Devices	DosDevConfig DosDevIOct1 DosDevIOct2
	Signals	DosHoldSignal DosSetSigHandler
	Misc	BadDynLink DosGetEnv DosGetMachineMode DosGetVersion DosError DosErrClass DosSetVec
KBD	KbdCharIn KbdFlushBuffer KbdGetStatus KbdSetStatus KbdStringIn KbdPeek	
VIO	VioGetBuf VioGetConfig VioGetCurPos VioGetCurType VioGetPhysBuf VioReadCellStr VioReadCharStr VioScrollUp VioScrollDn VioScrollLf VioScrollRt VioScrUnLock VioSetCurPos VioSetCurType VioSetMode VioGetMode VioShowBuf VioWrtCellStr VioWrtCharStr VioWrtCharStrAtt VioWrtNAttr VioWrtNCell VioWrtNChar VioWrtTTY VioScrLock VioPopUp	
Tools	BIND	
Modules	DOSCALLS.DLL VIOCALLS.DLL KBDCALLS.DLL MSG.DLL	
Libraries	API.LIB OS2386.LIB FAPI.LIB DOSCALLS.LIB SUBCALLS.LIB	

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