

# Package ‘fpeek’

February 9, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Check Text Files Content at a Glance

**Version** 0.2.0

**Description** Tools to help text files importation. It can return the number of lines; print the first and last lines; convert encoding; guess delimiters and file encoding. Operations are made without reading the entire file before starting, resulting in good performances with large files. This package provides an alternative to a simple use of the 'head', 'tail', 'wc' and 'iconv' programs that are not always available on machine where R is installed.

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**URL** <https://github.com/davidgohel/fpeek>,  
<https://davidgohel.github.io/fpeek/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/davidgohel/fpeek/issues>

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 0.12.12)

**Suggests** covr, readr, testthat

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**Author** David Gohel [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** David Gohel <david.gohel@ardata.fr>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-02-09 11:10:02 UTC

## Contents

peek_count_lines . . . . .	2
peek_guess_delim . . . . .	2

peek_guess_encoding . . . . .	3
peek_head . . . . .	4
peek_iconv . . . . .	5
peek_tail . . . . .	5

---

peek_count_lines	<i>number of lines of a file</i>
------------------	----------------------------------

---

## Description

return the number of lines found in a file. Operation is counting the number of new line symbols in the file.

## Usage

```
peek_count_lines(path, with_eof = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

path	file path
with_eof	count the end of file as a new line.

## Value

number of lines as an integer

## Examples

```
f <- system.file(package = "fpeek",
  "datafiles", "test-tab.csv")
peek_count_lines(f)
```

---

peek_guess_delim	<i>Guess Delimited File Parameters</i>
------------------	--

---

## Description

Guess the delimiter, quote character and decimal mark of a delimited text file. The function splits each of the first n lines by each candidate delimiter and selects the delimiter that produces the most consistent number of fields.

The algorithm is adapted from the vroom package.

**Usage**

```
peek_guess_delim(
  path,
  delims = c(", ", "\t", " ", "|", ":", ";"),
  quotes = c("'", "'"),
  n = 1024
)
```

**Arguments**

path	path to the text file.
delims	character vector of candidate delimiters.
quotes	character vector of candidate quote characters.
n	number of lines to read for guessing (default 1024).

**Value**

a named list with elements:

**delim** the guessed delimiter character (or NULL)  
**quote** the guessed quote character (or NULL)  
**decimal\_mark** the guessed decimal mark (or NULL)

**Examples**

```
f <- system.file(package = "fpeek",
  "datafiles", "test-comma.csv")
peek_guess_delim(f)

f <- system.file(package = "fpeek",
  "datafiles", "test-semicolon.csv")
peek_guess_delim(f)
```

---

peek\_guess\_encoding    *Guess File Encoding*

---

**Description**

Detect the encoding of a text file. This function is a wrapper around [guess\\_encoding](#) from the [readr](#) package, returning the best candidate as a character string.

[readr](#) must be installed (it is listed in [Suggests](#)). If it is not available, the function stops with an informative message.

**Usage**

```
peek_guess_encoding(path)
```

**Arguments**

path                    path to the text file.

**Value**

a character string giving the most likely encoding.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
f <- system.file(package = "fpeek",
  "datafiles", "cigfou-ISO-8859-1.txt")
peek_guess_encoding(f)

## End(Not run)
```

*peek\_head*                    *print the first lines of files*

**Description**

print the first n lines of a file.

**Usage**

```
peek_head(path, n = 10, intern = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

path                    file path

n                        number of lines to print

intern                    a logical which indicates whether to capture the output as an R character vector or to print the output in the R console.

**Examples**

```
f <- system.file(package = "fpeek",
  "datafiles", "test-tab.csv")
peek_head(f, n = 4)
peek_head(f, n = 4, intern = TRUE)
```

---

**peek\_iconv***Converts encoding of characters*

---

**Description**

Read a file, convert the encoding of characters and print the result.

**Usage**

```
peek_iconv(path, from, to = "UTF-8", newfile = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

path	file path
from	the code set in which the input is encoded.
to	the code set to which the output is to be converted.
newfile	result file. Default to NULL. If null the result will be print in the R console, otherwise a file is produced containing the result.

**Examples**

```
la_cigale <- system.file(package = "fpeek", "datafiles",
  "cigfou-ISO-8859-1.txt")

peek_iconv(la_cigale, from = "ISO-8859-1", to = "UTF-8")

newfile <- tempfile()
peek_iconv(la_cigale, from = "ISO-8859-1", to = "UTF-8",
  newfile = newfile)
peek_head(newfile, n = 10)
```

---

**peek\_tail***print the last lines of files*

---

**Description**

print the last n lines of a file.

**Usage**

```
peek_tail(path, n = 10, intern = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

path	file path
n	number of lines to print
intern	a logical which indicates whether to capture the output as an R character vector or to print the output in the R console.

**Examples**

```
f <- system.file(package = "fpeek",
  "datafiles", "test-tab.csv")
peek_tail(f, n = 4)
peek_tail(f, n = 4, intern = TRUE)
```

# Index

guess\_encoding, 3  
peek\_count\_lines, 2  
peek\_guess\_delim, 2  
peek\_guess\_encoding, 3  
peek\_head, 4  
peek\_iconv, 5  
peek\_tail, 5