

**SDL\_image**

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The latest copy of this document can be found at [http://www.jonatkings.org/SDL\\_image](http://www.jonatkings.org/SDL_image)

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# 1 Overview

## A Little Bit About Me

I am currently, as I write this document, a programmer for Raytheon. There I do all sorts of communications, network, GUI, and other general programming tasks in C/C++ on the Solaris, Linux, and Windows Operating Systems.

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## Why is this for you?

Images provide the basic visual building blocks for any user interface. Colors and fun shapes are the stuff that we as kids looked at for hours at a time while trying to shoot down big aliens and rescue pixelated princesses. Now it's our turn to make the images that others will remember later in life perhaps. Now how do we get this dang images into our SDL programs, and be flexible in the handling of the images so that we don't even have to worry about what various formats they may be in? This is where SDLimage makes all of our lives easier. This document doesn't help you make artwork, but it will give you the functional knowledge on how to get that art into your game. Now go forth and make your Stick Figure of Justice, someone else might fill in for your lack of artistry, at least you won't have to make much of an effort to include the new and better art into your code.

This is the README, updated by me for accuracy, in the SDL\_image source archive.

## SDL\_image 1.2

The latest version of this library is available from:

[SDL\\_image Homepage](#)

This is a simple library to load images of various formats as SDL surfaces. This library supports ICO(Icon)/CUR(Cursor)/BMP, PNM (PPM/PGM/PBM), XPM, LBM(IFF ILBM), PCX, GIF, JPEG, PNG, TGA, TIFF, and XV thumbnail formats.

API:

```
#include "SDL_image.h"
```

```
SDL_Surface *IMG_Load(const char *file);
```

or

```
SDL_Surface *IMG_Load_RW(SDL_RWops *src, int freesrc);
```

or

```
SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadTyped_RW(SDL_RWops *src, int freesrc, char *type);
```

where type is a string specifying the format (i.e. "PNG" or "pcx").

Note that IMG\_Load\_RW cannot load TGA images.

To create a surface from an XPM image included in C source, use:

```
SDL_Surface *IMG_ReadXPMFromArray(char **xpm);
```

An example program 'showimage' is included, with source in showimage.c

JPEG support requires the JPEG library:

[IJG Homepage](#)

PNG support requires the PNG library:

[PNG Homepage](#)

and the Zlib library:

[Zlib Homepage](#)

TIFF support requires the TIFF library:

[SGI TIFF FTP Site](#)

If you have these libraries installed in non-standard places, you can try adding those paths to the configure script, e.g.

```
sh ./configure CPPFLAGS="-I/somewhere/include" LDFLAGS="-L/somewhere/lib"
```

If this works, you may need to add /somewhere/lib to your LD\_LIBRARY\_PATH so shared library loading works correctly.

This library is under the GNU Library General Public License, see the file "COPYING" for details. Certain image loaders may be under a different license, see the individual image loader source files for details.

## 2 Getting Started

This assumes you have gotten SDL\_image and installed it on your system. SDL\_image has an README document in the source distribution to help you get it compiled and installed. Well it at least points you to locations for the source code of some of the image libraries SDL\_image can use. Most of the other image formats are builtin to SDL\_image.

Generally, in UNIX-like environments, installation consists of:

```
./configure
make
make install
```

SDL\_image supports loading and decoding images from the following formats:

<b>TGA</b>	TrueVision Targa (MUST have .tga)
<b>BMP</b>	Windows Bitmap(.bmp)
<b>PNM</b>	Portable Anymap (.pnm) .pbm = Portable BitMap (mono) .pgm = Portable GreyMap (256 greys) .ppm = Portable PixMap (full color)
<b>XPM</b>	X11 Pixmap (.xpm) can be #included directly in code This is NOT the same as XBM(X11 Bitmap) format, which is for monocolour images.
<b>XCF</b>	GIMP native (.xcf) (XCF = eXperimental Computing Facility?) This format is always changing, and since there's no library supplied by the GIMP project to load XCF, the loader may frequently fail to load much of any image from an XCF file. It's better to load this in GIMP and convert to a better supported image format.
<b>PCX</b>	ZSoft IBM PC Paintbrush (.pcx)
<b>GIF</b>	CompuServe Graphics Interchange Format (.gif)
<b>JPG</b>	Joint Photographic Experts Group JFIF format (.jpg or .jpeg)
<b>TIF</b>	Tagged Image File Format (.tif or .tiff)
<b>LBM</b>	Interleaved Bitmap (.lbm or .iff) FORM : ILBM or PBM(packed bitmap) HAM6, HAM8, and 24bit types are not supported.
<b>PNG</b>	Portable Network Graphics (.png)

You may also want to look at some demonstration code which may be downloaded from:  
[http://www.jonatkings.org/SDL\\_image/](http://www.jonatkings.org/SDL_image/)



## 2.1 Includes

To use SDL\_image functions in a C/C++ source code file, you must use the SDL\_image.h include file:

```
#include "SDL_image.h"
```

## 2.2 Compiling

To link with SDL\_image you should use `sdl-config` to get the required SDL compilation options. After that, compiling with SDL\_image is quite easy.

**Note:** Some systems may not have the SDL\_image library and include file in the same place as the SDL library and includes are located, in that case you will need to add more `-I` and `-L` paths to these command lines.

Simple Example for compiling an object file:

```
cc -c 'sdl-config --cflags' mysource.c
```

Simple Example for compiling an object file:

```
cc -o myprogram mysource.o 'sdl-config --libs' -lSDL_image
```

Now `myprogram` is ready to run.

## 3 Functions

These are the functions in the `SDL_image` API.

### **3.1 General**

These functions query, initialize, and cleanup the SDL\_image library.

### 3.1.1 IMG\_Linked\_Version

```
const SDL_version *IMG_Linked_Version()
void SDL_IMAGE_VERSION(SDL_version *compile_version)
```

This works similar to `SDL_Linked_Version` and `SDL_VERSION`.

Using these you can compare the runtime version to the version that you compiled with. These functions/macros do not require any library initialization calls before using them.

```
SDL_version compile_version;
const SDL_version *link_version=IMG_Linked_Version();
SDL_IMAGE_VERSION(&compile_version);
printf("compiled with SDL_image version: %d.%d.%d\n",
       compile_version.major,
       compile_version.minor,
       compile_version.patch);
printf("running with SDL_image version: %d.%d.%d\n",
       link_version->major,
       link_version->minor,
       link_version->patch);
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.1.2 \[IMG\\_Init\], page 10](#)

### 3.1.2 IMG\_Init

`int IMG_Init(int flags)`

*flags* bitwise OR'd set of image formats to support by loading a library now. The values you may OR together to pass in are:

**IMG\_INIT\_JPG**  
**IMG\_INIT\_PNG**  
**IMG\_INIT\_TIF**

Initialize by loading support as indicated by the *flags*, or at least return success if support is already loaded. You may call this multiple times, which will actually require you to call `IMG_Quit` just once to clean up. You may call this function with a 0 to retrieve whether support was built-in or not loaded yet.

**Note:** to load JPG, PNG, and/or TIF images you can call `IMG_Init` with the right `IMG_INIT_*` flags OR'd together before your program gets busy, to prevent a later hiccup while it loads the library, and to check that you do have the support that you need before you try and use it.

**Note:** No initialization is needed nor performed when using the `IMG_isJPG`, `IMG_isPNG`, and `IMG_isTIF` functions.

**Note:** this function does *not* always set the error string, so do not depend on `IMG_GetError` being meaningful all the time.

**Returns:** a bitmask of all the currently initted image loaders.

```
// load support for the JPG and PNG image formats
int flags=IMG_INIT_JPG|IMG_INIT_PNG;
int initted=IMG_Init(flags);
if(initted&flags != flags) {
    printf("IMG_Init: Failed to init required jpg and png support!\n");
    printf("IMG_Init: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.1.3 [`IMG_Quit`], page 11

### 3.1.3 IMG\_Quit

`void IMG_Quit()`

This function cleans up all dynamically loaded library handles, freeing memory. If support is required again it will be initialized again, either by `IMG_Init` or loading an image with dynamic support required. You may call this function when `IMG_Load` functions are no longer needed for the JPG, PNG, and TIF image formats. You only need to call this function once, no matter how many times `IMG_Init` was called.

```
// unload the dynamically loaded image libraries
IMG_Quit();
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.1.2 \[IMG\\_Init\], page 10](#)

## 3.2 Loading

These functions create an `SDL_Surface` from image data either from a file, or `SDL_RWop`, or from an array of data in memory.



### 3.2.1 IMG\_Load

`SDL_Surface *IMG_Load(const char *file)`

*file*            Image file name to load a surface from.

Load *file* for use as an image in a new surface. This actually calls `IMG_LoadTyped_RW`, with the file extension used as the *type* string. This can load all supported image files, including TGA as long as the filename ends with ".tga". It is best to call this outside of event loops, and rather keep the loaded images around until you are really done with them, as disk speed and image conversion to a surface is not *that* speedy. Don't forget to `SDL_FreeSurface` the returned surface pointer when you are through with it.

**Note:** If the image format loader requires initialization, it will attempt to do that the first time it is needed if you have not already called `IMG_Init` to load support for your image format.

**Note:** If the image format supports a transparent pixel, `SDL_image` will set the colorkey for the surface. You can enable RLE acceleration on the surface afterwards by calling:

```
SDL_SetColorKey(image, SDL_RLEACCEL, image->format->colorkey);
```

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. `NULL` is returned on errors, such as no support built for the image, or a file reading error.

```
// load sample.png into image
SDL_Surface *image;
image=IMG_Load("sample.png");
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_Load: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.1.2 \[IMG\\_Init\]](#), page 10, [Section 3.2.2 \[IMG\\_Load\\_RW\]](#), page 14, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15

### 3.2.2 IMG\_Load\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_Load_RW(SDL_RWops *src, int freesrc)`

*src*            The source SDL\_RWops as a pointer. The image is loaded from this.

*freesrc*        A non-zero value means it will automatically close/free the *src* for you.

Load *src* for use as a surface. This can load all supported image formats, **except TGA**. Using `SDL_RWops` is not covered here, but they enable you to load from almost any source. **Note:** If the image format loader requires initialization, it will attempt to do that the first time it is needed if you have not already called `IMG_Init` to load support for your image format.

**Note:** If the image format supports a transparent pixel, `SDL_image` will set the colorkey for the surface. You can enable RLE acceleration on the surface afterwards by calling:

```
SDL_SetColorKey(image, SDL_RLEACCEL, image->format->colorkey);
```

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. `NULL` is returned on errors.

```
// load sample.png in to image
SDL_Surface *image;
image=IMG_Load_RW(SDL_RWFromFile("sample.png", "rb"), 1);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_Load_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.1.2 [`IMG_Init`], page 10, Section 3.2.1 [`IMG_Load`], page 13, Section 3.2.3 [`IMG_LoadTyped_RW`], page 15

### 3.2.3 IMG\_LoadTyped\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadTyped_RW(SDL_RWops *src, int freesrc, char *type)`

*src*           The source SDL\_RWops as a pointer. The image is loaded from this.

*freesrc*       A non-zero value means it will automatically close/free the *src* for you.

*type*          A string that indicates which format type to interpret the image as.  
Here is a list of the currently recognized strings (case is not important):

```
"BMP"
"CUR"
"GIF"
"ICO"
"JPG"
"LBM"
"PCX"
"PNG"
"PNM"
"TGA"
"TIF"
"XCF"
"XPM"
"XV"
```

Load *src* for use as a surface. This can load all supported image formats. This method does not guarantee that the format specified by *type* is the format of the loaded image, except in the case when TGA format is specified (or any other non-magicable format in the future). Using *SDL\_RWops* is not covered here, but they enable you to load from almost any source. **Note:** If the image format loader requires initialization, it will attempt to do that the first time it is needed if you have not already called `IMG_Init` to load support for your image format.

**Note:** If the image format supports a transparent pixel, `SDL_image` will set the colorkey for the surface. You can enable RLE acceleration on the surface afterwards by calling:

```
SDL_SetColorKey(image, SDL_RLEACCEL, image->format->colorkey);
```

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors.

```
// load sample.tga into image
SDL_Surface *image;
image=IMG_LoadTyped_RW(SDL_RWFromFile("sample.tga", "rb"), 1, "TGA");
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadTyped_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.1.2 [`IMG_Init`], page 10, Section 3.2.1 [`IMG_Load`], page 13, Section 3.2.2 [`IMG_Load_RW`], page 14

### 3.2.4 IMG\_LoadCUR\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadCUR_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The icon image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a Windows Cursor image for use as a surface, if BMP support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library. The CUR's mask is put into to per pixel alpha in the surface. For files with multiple images, the first one found with the highest color count is chosen.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if BMP is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.cur into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.cur", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadCUR_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadCUR_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.2.3 [IMG\_LoadTyped\_RW], page 15, Section 3.3.1 [IMG\_isCUR], page 32

### 3.2.5 IMG\_LoadICO\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadICO_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The icon image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a Windows Icon image for use as a surface, if BMP support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library. The ICO's mask is put into to per pixel alpha in the surface. For files with multiple images, the first one found with the highest color count is chosen.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if BMP is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.ico into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.ico", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadICO_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadICO_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.2.3 [IMG\_LoadTyped\_RW], page 15, Section 3.3.2 [IMG\_isICO], page 33

### 3.2.6 IMG\_LoadBMP\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadBMP_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The BMP image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a BMP image for use as a surface, if BMP support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if BMP is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.bmp into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.bmp", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadBMP_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadBMP_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15, [Section 3.3.3 \[IMG\\_isBMP\]](#), page 34

### 3.2.7 IMG\_LoadPNM\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadPNM_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`           The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The PNM image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a PNM image for use as a surface, if PNM support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if PNM is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.pnm into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.pnm", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadPNM_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadPNM_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15, [Section 3.3.4 \[IMG\\_isPNM\]](#), page 35

### 3.2.8 IMG\_LoadXPM\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadXPM_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The XPM image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a XPM image for use as a surface, if XPM support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if XPM is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.xpm into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.xpm", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadXPM_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadXPM_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.2.3 [IMG\_LoadTyped\_RW], page 15, Section 3.2.18 [IMG\_ReadXPMFromArray], page 30, Section 3.3.5 [IMG\_isXPM], page 36



### 3.2.9 IMG\_LoadXCF\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadXCF_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The XCF image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a XCF image for use as a surface, if XCF support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if XCF is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.xcf into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.xcf", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadXCF_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadXCF_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15, [Section 3.3.6 \[IMG\\_isXCF\]](#), page 37

### 3.2.10 IMG\_LoadPCX\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadPCX_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The PCX image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a PCX image for use as a surface, if PCX support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if PCX is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.pcx into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.pcx", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadPCX_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadPCX_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15, [Section 3.3.7 \[IMG\\_isPCX\]](#), page 38

### 3.2.11 IMG\_LoadGIF\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadGIF_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The GIF image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a GIF image for use as a surface, if GIF support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if GIF is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.gif into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.gif", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadGIF_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadGIF_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15, [Section 3.3.8 \[IMG\\_isGIF\]](#), page 39

### 3.2.12 IMG\_LoadJPG\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadJPG_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The JPG image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a JPG image for use as a surface, if JPG support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Note:** If the image format loader requires initialization, it will attempt to do that the first time it is needed if you have not already called `IMG_Init` to load support for your image format.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. `NULL` is returned on errors, like if JPG is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.jpg into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.jpg", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadJPG_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadJPG_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.1.2 [`IMG_Init`], page 10, Section 3.2.3 [`IMG_LoadTyped_RW`], page 15, Section 3.3.9 [`IMG_isJPG`], page 40

### 3.2.13 IMG\_LoadTIF\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadTIF_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`           The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The TIF image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a TIF image for use as a surface, if TIF support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Note:** If the image format loader requires initialization, it will attempt to do that the first time it is needed if you have not already called `IMG_Init` to load support for your image format.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. `NULL` is returned on errors, like if TIF is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.tif into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.tif", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadTIF_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadTIF_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.1.2 [`IMG_Init`], page 10, Section 3.2.3 [`IMG_LoadTyped_RW`], page 15, Section 3.3.10 [`IMG_isTIF`], page 41

### 3.2.14 IMG\_LoadPNG\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadPNG_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`           The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The PNG image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a PNG image for use as a surface, if PNG support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Note:** If the image format loader requires initialization, it will attempt to do that the first time it is needed if you have not already called `IMG_Init` to load support for your image format.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. `NULL` is returned on errors, like if PNG is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.png into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.png", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadPNG_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadPNG_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.1.2 [`IMG_Init`], page 10, Section 3.2.3 [`IMG_LoadTyped_RW`], page 15, Section 3.3.11 [`IMG_isPNG`], page 42

### 3.2.15 IMG\_LoadTGA\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadTGA_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The TGA image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a TGA image for use as a surface, if TGA support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library. If you try to load a non TGA image, you might succeed even when it's not TGA image formatted data, this is because the TGA has no magic, which is a way of identifying a filetype from a signature in it's contents. So be careful with this.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if TGA is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.tga into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.tga", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadTGA_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadTGA_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.2.3 [IMG\_LoadTyped\_RW], page 15

### 3.2.16 IMG\_LoadLBM\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadLBM_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The LBM image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a LBM image for use as a surface, if LBM support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if LBM is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.lbm into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.lbm", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadLBM_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadLBM_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15, [Section 3.3.12 \[IMG\\_isLBM\]](#), page 43



### 3.2.17 IMG\_LoadXV\_RW

`SDL_Surface *IMG_LoadXV_RW(SDL_RWops *src)`

`src`            The source `SDL_RWops` as a pointer. The XV image is loaded from this.

Load `src` as a XV thumbnail image for use as a surface, if XV support is compiled into the `SDL_image` library.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if XV is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.xv into image
SDL_Surface *image;
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.xv", "rb");
image=IMG_LoadXV_RW(rwop);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_LoadXV_RW: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

Section 3.2.3 [IMG\_LoadTyped\_RW], page 15, Section 3.3.13 [IMG\_isXV], page 44

### 3.2.18 IMG\_ReadXPMFromArray

`SDL_Surface *IMG_ReadXPMFromArray(char **xpm)`

*xpm*        The source xpm data. The XPM image is loaded from this. XPM files are C header files that define a char \*\*variable, that variable name is what you use here.

Load *xpm* as a XPM image for use as a surface, if XPM support is compiled into the SDL\_image library.

**Returns:** a pointer to the image as a new `SDL_Surface`. **NULL** is returned on errors, like if XPM is not supported, or a read error.

```
// load sample.xpm into image
#include "sample.xpm"
SDL_Surface *image;
image=IMG_ReadXPMFromArray(sample_xpm);
if(!image) {
    printf("IMG_ReadXPMFromArray: %s\n", IMG_GetError());
    // handle error
}
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.8 \[IMG\\_LoadXPM\\_RW\]](#), page 20

### 3.3 Info

These functions are tests for specific file formats. They also show if the format is supported in the linked `SDL_image` library, assuming you have a valid image of that type.

### 3.3.1 IMG\_isCUR

`int IMG_isCUR(SDL_RWops *src)`

*src*

If the BMP format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a CUR, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a CUR and the BMP format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.cur to see if it is a CUR
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.cur", "rb");
if(IMG_isCUR(rwop))
printf("sample.cur is a CUR file.\n");
else
printf("sample.cur is not a CUR file, or BMP support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.4 \[IMG\\_LoadCUR\\_RW\]](#), page 16, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15

### 3.3.2 IMG\_isICO

int **IMG\_isICO**(SDL\_RWops \*src)

*src*

If the BMP format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as an ICO, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is an ICO and the BMP format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.ico to see if it is an ICO
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.ico", "rb");
if(IMG_isICO(rwop))
printf("sample.ico is an ICO file.\n");
else
printf("sample.ico is not an ICO file, or BMP support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.5 \[IMG\\_LoadICO\\_RW\]](#), page 17, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15

### 3.3.3 IMG\_isBMP

`int IMG_isBMP(SDL_RWops *src)`

*src*

If the BMP format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a BMP, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a BMP and the BMP format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.bmp to see if it is a BMP
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.bmp", "rb");
if(IMG_isBMP(rwop))
printf("sample.bmp is a BMP file.\n");
else
printf("sample.bmp is not a BMP file, or BMP support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.6 \[IMG\\_LoadBMP\\_RW\]](#), page 18, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15

### 3.3.4 IMG\_isPNM

`int IMG_isPNM(SDL_RWops *src)`

*src*

If the PNM format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a PNM, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a PNM and the PNM format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.pnm to see if it is a PNM
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.pnm", "rb");
if(IMG_isPNM(rwop))
printf("sample.pnm is a PNM file.\n");
else
printf("sample.pnm is not a PNM file, or PNM support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.7 \[IMG\\_LoadPNM\\_RW\]](#), page 19, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15

### 3.3.5 IMG\_isXPM

`int IMG_isXPM(SDL_RWops *src)`

*src*

If the XPM format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a XPM, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a XPM and the XPM format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.xpm to see if it is a XPM
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.xpm", "rb");
if(IMG_isXPM(rwop))
printf("sample.xpm is a XPM file.\n");
else
printf("sample.xpm is not a XPM file, or XPM support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.8 \[IMG\\_LoadXPM\\_RW\]](#), page 20, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15



### 3.3.6 IMG\_isXCF

`int IMG_isXCF(SDL_RWops *src)`

*src*

If the XCF format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a XCF, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a XCF and the XCF format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.xcf to see if it is a XCF
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.xcf", "rb");
if(IMG_isXCF(rwop))
printf("sample.xcf is a XCF file.\n");
else
printf("sample.xcf is not a XCF file, or XCF support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.9 \[IMG\\_LoadXCF\\_RW\]](#), page 21, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15

### 3.3.7 IMG\_isPCX

int **IMG\_isPCX**(SDL\_RWops \*src)

src

If the PCX format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a PCX, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a PCX and the PCX format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.pcx to see if it is a PCX
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.pcx", "rb");
if(IMG_isPCX(rwop))
printf("sample.pcx is a PCX file.\n");
else
printf("sample.pcx is not a PCX file, or PCX support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.10 \[IMG\\_LoadPCX\\_RW\], page 22](#), [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\], page 15](#)

### 3.3.8 IMG\_isGIF

int **IMG\_isGIF**(SDL\_RWops \*src)

*src*

If the GIF format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a GIF, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a GIF and the GIF format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.gif to see if it is a GIF
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.gif", "rb");
if(IMG_isGIF(rwop))
printf("sample.gif is a GIF file.\n");
else
printf("sample.gif is not a GIF file, or GIF support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.11 \[IMG\\_LoadGIF\\_RW\]](#), page 23, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15

### 3.3.9 IMG\_isJPG

`int IMG_isJPG(SDL_RWops *src)`

*src*

If the JPG format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a JPG, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a JPG and the JPG format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.jpg to see if it is a JPG
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.jpg", "rb");
if(IMG_isJPG(rwop))
printf("sample.jpg is a JPG file.\n");
else
printf("sample.jpg is not a JPG file, or JPG support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.12 \[IMG\\_LoadJPG\\_RW\], page 24](#), [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\], page 15](#)

### 3.3.10 IMG\_isTIF

int **IMG\_isTIF**(SDL\_RWops \*src)

*src*

If the TIF format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a TIF, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a TIF and the TIF format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.tif to see if it is a TIF
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.tif", "rb");
if(IMG_isTIF(rwop))
printf("sample.tif is a TIF file.\n");
else
printf("sample.tif is not a TIF file, or TIF support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.13 \[IMG\\_LoadTIF\\_RW\]](#), page 25, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15

### 3.3.11 IMG\_isPNG

`int IMG_isPNG(SDL_RWops *src)`

*src*

If the PNG format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a PNG, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a PNG and the PNG format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.png to see if it is a PNG
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.png", "rb");
if(IMG_isPNG(rwop))
printf("sample.png is a PNG file.\n");
else
printf("sample.png is not a PNG file, or PNG support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.14 \[IMG\\_LoadPNG\\_RW\], page 26](#), [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\], page 15](#)

### 3.3.12 IMG\_isLBM

`int IMG_isLBM(SDL_RWops *src)`

*src*

If the LBM format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as a LBM, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is a LBM and the LBM format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.lbm to see if it is a LBM
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.lbm", "rb");
if(IMG_isLBM(rwop))
printf("sample.lbm is a LBM file.\n");
else
printf("sample.lbm is not a LBM file, or LBM support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.16 \[IMG\\_LoadLBM\\_RW\], page 28](#), [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\], page 15](#)

### 3.3.13 IMG\_isXV

`int IMG_isXV(SDL_RWops *src)`

*src*

If the XV format is supported, then the image data is tested to see if it is readable as an XV thumbnail, otherwise it returns false (Zero).

**Returns:** 1 if the image is an XV thumbnail and the XV format support is compiled into SDL\_image. 0 is returned otherwise.

```
// Test sample.xv to see if it is an XV thumbnail
SDL_RWops *rwop;
rwop=SDL_RWFromFile("sample.xv", "rb");
if(IMG_isXV(rwop))
printf("sample.xv is an XV file.\n");
else
printf("sample.xv is not an XV file, or XV support is not available.\n");
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.2.17 \[IMG\\_LoadXV\\_RW\]](#), page 29, [Section 3.2.3 \[IMG\\_LoadTyped\\_RW\]](#), page 15



### **3.4 Errors**

These functions are used for error status strings that should help the user and developer understand why a function failed.

### 3.4.1 IMG\_SetError

`void IMG_SetError(const char *fmt, ...)`

This is the same as `SDL_SetError`, which sets the error string which may be fetched with `IMG_GetError` (or `SDL_GetError`). This functions acts like `printf`, except that it is limited to `SDL_ERRBUFSIZE`(1024) chars in length. It only accepts the following format types: `%s`, `%d`, `%f`, `%p`. No variations are supported, like `%.2f` would not work. For any more specifics read the SDL docs.

```
int myimagefunc(int i) {
    IMG_SetError("myimagefunc is not implemented! %d was passed in.",i);
    return(-1);
}
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.4.2 \[IMG\\_GetError\]](#), page 47

### 3.4.2 IMG\_GetError

`char *IMG_GetError()`

This is the same as `SDL_GetError`, which returns the last error set as a string which you may use to tell the user what happened when an error status has been returned from an `SDL_image` function call.

**Returns:** a char pointer (string) containing a human readable version or the reason for the last error that occurred.

```
printf("Oh My Goodness, an error : %s", IMG_GetError());
```

**See Also:**

[Section 3.4.1 \[IMG\\_SetError\]](#), page 46

## 4 Defines

### **IMG\_MAJOR\_VERSION**

1  
SDL\_image library major number at compilation time

### **IMG\_MINOR\_VERSION**

2  
SDL\_image library minor number at compilation time

### **IMG\_PATCHLEVEL**

8  
SDL\_image library patch level at compilation time

### **IMG\_INIT\_JPG**

1  
IMG\_Init JPG image format support flag

### **IMG\_INIT\_PNG**

2  
IMG\_Init PNG image format support flag

### **IMG\_INIT\_TIF**

4  
IMG\_Init TIF image format support flag

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