

Return value

Why check return values?

“C does not provide direct support for error handling (also known as exception handling). By convention, the programmer is expected to prevent errors from occurring in the first place, and test return values from functions. For example, -1 and NULL are used in several functions such as `socket()` (Unix socket programming) or `malloc()` respectively to indicate problems that the programmer should be aware about. In a worst case scenario where there is an unavoidable error and no way to recover from it, a C programmer usually tries to log the error and "gracefully" terminate the program.”

https://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/C_Programming/Error_handling