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Working with External Data Sources – Input

Lecture – Housekeeping

- ❑ The use of disrespectful language is prohibited in the questions, this is a supportive, learning environment for all - please engage accordingly.
- ❑ No question is daft or silly - **ask them!**
- ❑ There are Q/A sessions midway and at the end of the session, should you wish to ask any follow-up questions.
- ❑ You can also submit questions here:
<http://hyperiondev.com/sbc4-se-questions>
- ❑ For all non-academic questions, please submit a query:
www.hyperiondev.com/support
- ❑ Report a safeguarding incident:
<http://hyperiondev.com/safeguardreporting>
- ❑ We would love your feedback on lectures:
<https://hyperiondev.wufoo.com/forms/zsgv4m40ui4i0g/>

Objectives

- Create smarter programs by learning how to read data from text files

File I/O

- ★ File I/O stands for file **input/output**
- ★ It is a process that **reads** data from an **external file** on the computer or **outputs** to another file.
- ★ Python has a built-in file type, which is the **complex data type**.
- ★ This means that Python can **create variables of type "file"**.

Opening a File

- ★ To read from a file, we must first open it.
- ★ To open a file, we use Python's built-in `open()` function, which creates what is known as a file object.
- ★ To utilize the file object's data, we store the file object in a variable.
- ★ Once we are done, we then close the file.

Opening Files

- ★ To use a file in our program, we store the file object in a variable as such :
 - **file = open(file_name , access_mode)**
- ★ **Access mode** : what the user can do when the file has been opened, such as reading (r), writing (w), or reading and writing (r+).

Opening Example

```
# To make opening the file easier,  
#   best to keep the text file in the  
#       same location as your Python file.  
  
file_name = "input.txt"  
  
file = open(file_name, "r")  
  
# File is now being read by Python.
```

Reading Files

- ★ Files are opened in Python with the `open()` function. We know that `open()` will return a `file object`.
- ★ To then properly read the object, we will need to use the `read method`.
- ★ There are three methods : `.read()` , `.readline()`, `.readlines()`

Read Example

```
file_name = "input.txt"

file = open(file_name, "r")

# Read will simply read over all lines in
# our text file. We can display them by printing.
lines = file.read()

print(lines)
```

Readline Example

```
file_name = "input.txt"

file = open(file_name, "r")

# Readline will simply read over the first line in
# our text file. We can display them by printing.
line = file.readline()

print(line)
```

Readlines Example

```
file_name = "input.txt"

file = open(file_name, "r")

# Readlines will simply read over each line individually
# within the text file. We can display them by printing.
line = file.readlines()

print(line)
# Keep in mind that the output is actually a list.
```

Closing a File

- ★ The `close()` method ensures **system resources are not wasted** in our programs.
- ★ It is always **best practice** to close files when you are **finished** working with them.
- ★ Remember that once a file is closed, it cannot be read again until it is **re-opened**.

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Q & A Section

Please use this time to ask any questions relating to the topic explained, should you have any



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**Thank you
for joining us**