# **FILE HANDLING:** 23/10/2025

File handling is an important part of any web application.

Python has several functions for creating, reading, updating, and deleting files.

## **File Handling**

* The key function for working with files in Python is the [open()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_func_open.asp) function.
* The [open()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_func_open.asp) function takes two parameters; *filename*, and *mode*.

There are four different methods (modes) for opening a file:

1. "r" - Read - Default value. Opens a file for reading, error if the file does not exist
2. "a" - Append - Opens a file for appending, creates the file if it does not exist
3. "w" - Write - Opens a file for writing, creates the file if it does not exist
4. "x" - Create - Creates the specified file, returns an error if the file exists

In addition you can specify if the file should be handled as binary or text mode

1. "t" - Text - Default value. Text mode
2. "b" - Binary - Binary mode (e.g. images)

### **Syntax**

* To open a file for reading it is enough to specify the name of the file:

f = open("demofile.txt")

* The code above is the same as:

f = open("demofile.txt", "rt")

Because "r" for read, and "t" for text are the default values, you do not need to specify them.