

11) Implementing ftruncate()

❖ In C, the `ftruncate()` function allows you to change the size of an open file. It comes in handy when you want to truncate or extend the file to a desired specific length. It belongs to the `unistd.h` library and works with file descriptors. When `ftruncate(fd, size)` is called, it instructs the system to truncate the file pointed to by the file descriptor `fd` to the new length size (in bytes). If the file was bigger, delete the rest; if smaller, the system would normally fill the extra space with null bytes (although this never happens in practice). Uses of `ftruncate`:

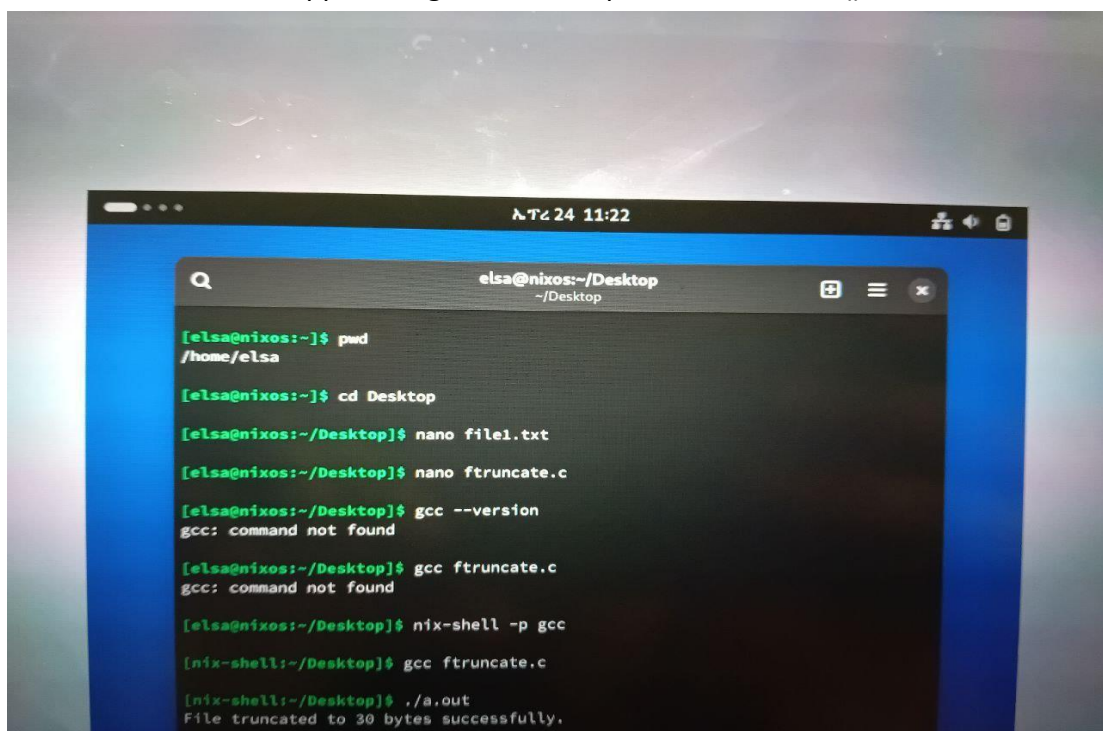
- To clean temporary files by strictly cutting the useful part.
- To reset or shrink logs, databases, or any kind of file.
- Useful in low-level system programming to get manual control over file size.

❖ Example :

```
int ftr=open("file1.txt",O_RDWR);
```

```
ftruncate(ftr,30);
```

- ❖ Thus file "file1.txt" is opened and reshaped to 20 bytes:
- ❖ This means: "Keep the first 30 bytes of this file, and drop the rest."
- ❖ Here are the snippets images when I implement `ftruncate()` :



```
elsa@nixos:~/Desktop
[elsa@nixos:~]$ pwd
/home/elsa
[elsa@nixos:~]$ cd Desktop
[elsa@nixos:~/Desktop]$ nano file1.txt
[elsa@nixos:~/Desktop]$ nano ftruncate.c
[elsa@nixos:~/Desktop]$ gcc --version
gcc: command not found
[elsa@nixos:~/Desktop]$ gcc ftruncate.c
gcc: command not found
[elsa@nixos:~/Desktop]$ nix-shell -p gcc
[nix-shell:~/Desktop]$ gcc ftruncate.c
[nix-shell:~/Desktop]$ ./a.out
File truncated to 30 bytes successfully.
```

