

OOP with C++ (MCA 111)

Unit 4

File Handling in C++

- File Handling is used for store a data permanently in computer. Using file handling we can store our data in Secondary memory (Hard disk).
- **File:** The information / data stored under a specific name on a storage device, is called a file.
- **Stream:** It refers to a sequence of bytes.

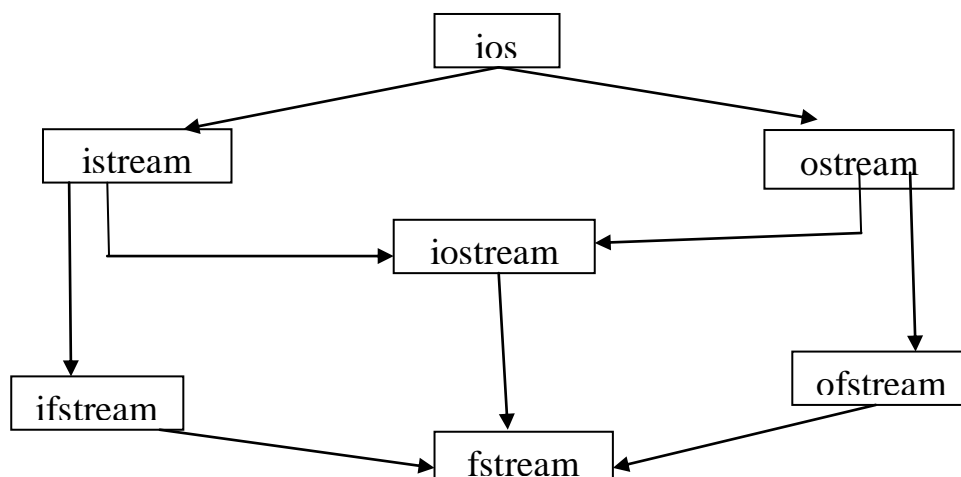
Why use File Handling in C++

- Memory is volatile
- For permanet storage.
- The transfer of input - data or output - data from one computer to another can be easily done by using files.

Classes for File Stream Operations:

- We have been using the **iostream** standard library, which provides **cin** and **cout** methods for reading from standard input and writing to standard output respectively.
- The another C++ standard library called **fstream** used to read and write from a file.

Datatype	Description
ofstream <code>#include<ofstream></code>	This is used to create a file and write data on files. (Output file stream)
ifstream <code>#include<ifstream></code>	This is used to read data from files. (Input file stream)
fstream <code>#include<fstream></code>	This is used to both read and write data from/to files. (Both Input and Output)



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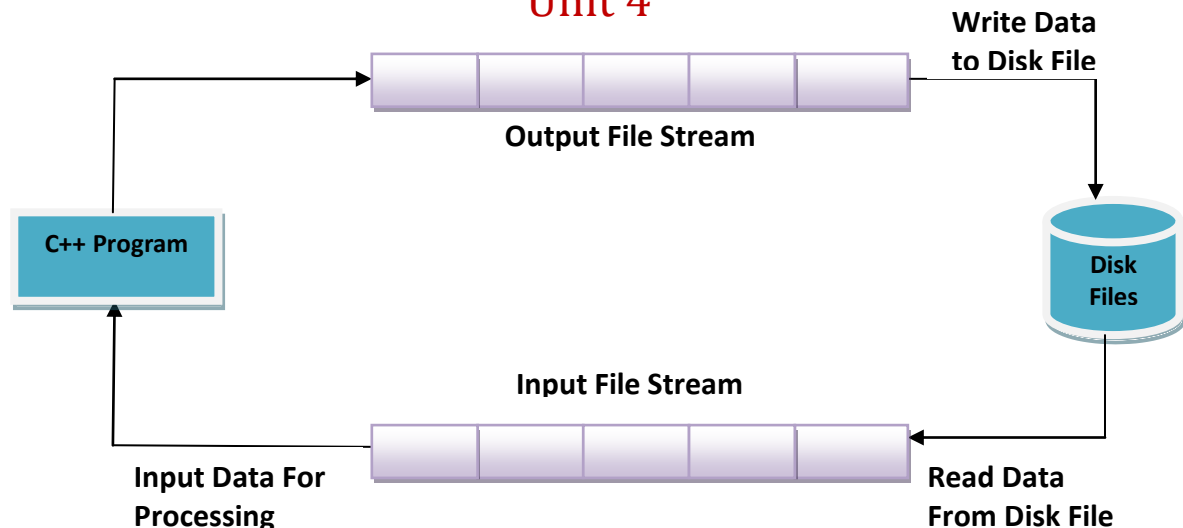


Fig : File Handling in c++

How to achieve File Handling

For achieving file handling in C++ we need follow following steps:

- Naming a file
- Opening a file
- Reading data from file
- Writing data into file
- Closing a file

Functions use in File Handling:

Function	Operation
open()	To create a file
close()	To close an existing file

Sequential input and output operations in file: The file stream classes support a number of member functions for performing the input and output operations on files.

Function	Operation
get()	Read a single character from a file
put()	write a single character in file.
read()	Read data from file
write()	Write data into file.

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Opening a File:

- A file must be opened before you can read from it or write to it. Either **ofstream** or **fstream** object may be used to open a file for writing. And **ifstream** object is used to open a file for reading purpose only.
- The function `open()` can be used to open multiple files that use the same stream object.

Syntax:

```
file-stream-class stream-object;  
stream-object.open("filename");
```

File Opening mode:

Mode	Meaning	Purpose
<code>ios :: out</code>	Write	Open the file for write only.
<code>ios :: in</code>	read	Open the file for read only.
<code>ios :: app</code>	Appending	Open the file for appending data to end-of-file.
<code>ios :: ate</code>	Appending	take us to the end of the file when it is opened.

Example1:

```
ifstream outfile;    // create stream  
outfile . open ("data.txt", ios :: in); // connect stream to data1
```

Example2:

```
fstream file;  
file.Open("data . txt", ios :: out | ios :: in);
```

Closing a File:

- When a C++ program terminates it automatically close all the streams, release all the allocated memory and close all the opened files before program termination.
- A file must be close after completion of all operation related to file. For closing file we need `close()` function.

Syntax:

```
fstream outfile;  
outfile.close();
```

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1. Opening a File

```
#include<iostream.h>
#include<fstream.h>
#include<conio.h>
void main()
{
    fstream st; // Step 1: Creating object of fstream class
    st.open("E:\data.txt",ios::out); // Step 2: Creating new file
    if(!st) // Step 3: Checking whether file exist
    {
        cout<<"File creation failed";
    }
    else
    {
        cout<<"New file created";
        st.close(); // Step 4: Closing file
    }
    getch();
}
```

2. Writing to a File

```
#include<iostream.h>
#include<fstream.h>
#include<conio.h>
void main()
{
    fstream st; // Step 1: Creating object of fstream class
    st.open("E:\data.txt",ios::out); // Step 2: Creating new file
    if(!st) // Step 3: Checking whether file exist
    {
        cout<<"File creation failed";
    }
    else
    {
        cout<<"New file created";
        st<<"Hello"; // Step 4: Writing to file
        st.close(); // Step 5: Closing file
    }
    getch();
}
```

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3. Reading from a File

```
#include<iostream.h>
#include<fstream.h>
#include<conio.h>
void main()
{
    fstream st; // step 1: Creating object of fstream class
    st.open("E:\data.txt",ios::in); // Step 2: Creating new file
    if(!st) // Step 3: Checking whether file exist
    {
        cout<<"No such file";
    }
    else
    {
        char ch;
        while (!st.eof())
        {
            //st >>ch; // Step 4: Reading from file
            //cout << ch; // Message Read from file
            ch=st.get();
            cout<<ch;

        }
        st.close(); // Step 5: Closing file
    }
    getch();
}
```

File pointer in C++:

- Each file have two associated pointers known as the file pointers. One of them is called the input pointer (or get pointer) and the other is called the output pointer (or put pointer).
- The input pointer is used for reading the contents of a given file location and the output pointer is used for writing to a given file location.
- **Function for manipulation of file pointer** When we want to move file pointer to desired position then use these function for manage the file pointers.

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Function	Operation
seekp()	moves put pointer (output) to a specified location.(put data from program to file)
tellp()	gives the current position of the put pointer.(put data from program to file)
seekg()	moves get pointer (input) to a specified location. (get data from file to program)
tellg()	gives the current position of the get pointer.(get data from file to program)
fout . seekg(0, ios :: beg)	go to start
fout . seekg(0, ios :: cur)	stay at current position
fout . seekg(0, ios :: end)	go to the end of file
fout . seekg(m, ios :: beg)	move to m+1 byte in the file
fout . seekg(m, ios :: cur)	go forward by m bytes from the current position
fout . seekg(-m, ios :: cur)	go backward by m bytes from the current position
fout . seekg(-m, ios :: end)	go backward by m bytes from the end

put() and get() function:

The function put() write a single character to the associated stream. Similarly, the function get() reads a single character from the associated stream.

Example1:tellp() and seekp() function works

```
#include<iostream.h>
#include<fstream.h>
void main()
{
    fstream file;
    file.open("E:\data.txt",ios::out);
    cout<<file.tellp()<<endl;
    file>>"Hello program";
    cout<< file.tellp()<<endl;
    file.seekp(-7,ios::end);
    cout<< file.tellp()<<endl;
```

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```
file<<"C++";
file.seekp(0,ios::beg);
file<<"HELLO";
//Read file data
char ch;
while(!file.eof())
{
ch=file.get();
cout<<ch;
}
file.close();
}
```

Example2: tellg() and seekg() function works

```
#include<iostream.h>
#include<fstream.h>
void main()
{
fstream file;
file.open("E:\data.txt",ios::out);
file<<"Hello C++ Programmig";
cout<<file.tellg()<<endl;
file.seekg(5,ios::beg);
cout<<file.tellg()<<endl;
//Read file data
char ch;
while(!file.eof())
{
ch=file.get();
cout<<ch;
}
cout<<file.tellg()<<endl;
file.close();
}
```