

## **Explain what your topic is about?**

Reading and writing files in php is a part of the file handling. With reading and writing you are able to use php to write data to a file. It can also be used to create a new file if the file does not exist. When reading a file you can read data from an existing file and display its contents or use it in code.

## **How relevant is it to Web development? / What is the use of it?**

It can be used for importing data from a file, this could be for parsing data out of something that a customer has provided, or this could just be used to help drive the user interface. It is also possible to use along with explode() function to parse lines of data into an array. An example of this could be a user entering names through a form and those names being saved to a new file that is written at initial submit. These names are then stored in a new file.

## **How to implement it?**

### **Reading files**

```
<?php  
echo readfile("file2.txt");  
?>
```

The readfile() function is useful if all you want to do is open up a file and read its contents

To have more options we use the fopen() function instead of the readfile()

To read a file you first have to open it and set a handle in this case \$myfile

```
<?php  
$myfile = fopen("file2.txt", "r") or die("Unable to open file!");  
  
echo fread($myfile,filesize("file.txt"));  
  
fclose($myfile);  
?>
```

## Writing to files

To write to a file also begins with opening the file and setting a handle. Also if there is not a current file2.txt then one will be created. However when using fwrite() if there was any existing data in the file it would be erased and replaced with the new data from the fwrite() function.

```
<?php
$my_file = "file2.txt";
$handle = fopen($my_file, "w") or die("Cannot open file: ".$my_file);
$data = "New data line 1\n";
fwrite($handle, $data);
$data = "New data line 2 \n";
fwrite($handle, $data);
fclose($my_file);
?>
```

If we want to write to a file without erasing the current contents we use append. This is the "a" in the fopen() instead of the "w" used in the previous one.

```
<?php
$my_file = "file2.txt";
$handle = fopen($my_file, "a") or die("Cannot open file: ".$my_file);
$data = "New data line 1\n";
fwrite($handle, $data);
$data = "New data line 2 \n";
fwrite($handle, $data);
fclose($my_file);
?>
```