Java Files

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File handling is an important part of any application.

Java has several methods for creating, reading, updating, and deleting files.

Java File Handling

The `File` class from the `java.io` package, allows us to work with files.

To use the `File` class, create an object of the class, and specify the filename or directory name:

Example

```
import java.io.File;  // Import the File class

File myObj = new File("filename.txt"); // Specify the filename
```

If you don't know what a package is, read our Java Packages Tutorial.

The `File` class has many useful methods for creating and getting information about files. For example:

Method	Type	Description
`canRead()`	Boolean	Tests whether the file is readable or not
`canWrite()`	Boolean	Tests whether the file is writable or not
`createNewFile()`	Boolean	Creates an empty file
`delete()`	Boolean	Deletes a file
`exists()`	Boolean	Tests whether the file exists
`getName()`	String	Returns the name of the file
`getAbsolutePath()`	String	Returns the absolute pathname of the file
`length()`	Long	Returns the size of the file in bytes
`list()`	String[]	Returns an array of the files in the directory
`mkdir()`	Boolean	Creates a directory

You will learn how to create, write, read and delete files in the next chapters:

Create/Write Files »

Method	Type	Description
`canRead()`	Boolean	Tests whether the file is readable or not
`canWrite()`	Boolean	Tests whether the file is writable or not
`createNewFile()`	Boolean	Creates an empty file
`delete()`	Boolean	Deletes a file
`exists()`	Boolean	Tests whether the file exists
`getName()`	String	Returns the name of the file
`getAbsolutePath()`	String	Returns the absolute pathname of the file
`length()`	Long	Returns the size of the file in bytes
`list()`	String[]	Returns an array of the files in the directory
`mkdir()`	Boolean	Creates a directory

You will learn how to create, write, read and delete files in the next chapters:

Create/Write Files »

Read Files »

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Java Create and Write To Files

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Create a File

To create a file in Java, you can use the `createNewFile()` method. This method returns a boolean value: `true` if the file was successfully created, and `false` if the file already exists. Note that the method is enclosed in a `try...catch` block. This is necessary because it throws an `IOException` if an error occurs (if the file cannot be created for some reason):

Example

```
import java.io.File;  // Import the File class
import java.io.IOException;  // Import the IOException class to handle errors

public class CreateFile {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    try {
      File myObj = new File("filename.txt");
      if (myObj.createNewFile()) {
        System.out.println("File created: " + myObj.getName());
```

Example

```
import java.io.File;  // Import the File class
import java.io.IOException;  // Import the IOException class to handle errors

public class CreateFile {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    try {
      File myObj = new File("filename.txt");
      if (myObj.createNewFile()) {
        System.out.println("File created: " + myObj.getName());
      } else {
        System.out.println("File already exists.");
      }
    } catch (IOException e) {
      System.out.println("An error occurred.");
      e.printStackTrace();
    }
  }
}
```


The output will be:

```
File created: filename.txt
```

Run Example »

To create a file in a specific directory (requires permission), specify the path of the file and use double backslashes to escape the "\" character (for Windows). On Mac and Linux you can just write the path, like: /Users/name/filename.txt

Example

```
File myObj = new File("C:\\Users\\MyName\\filename.txt");
```

Run Example »

Write To a File

In the following example, we use the `FileWriter` class together with its `write()` method to write some text to the file we created in the example above. Note that when you are done writing to the file, you should close it with the `close()` method:

Example

```
import java.io.FileWriter;   // Import the FileWriter class
import java.io.IOException;  // Import the IOException class to handle errors

public class WriteToFile {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
```

Write To a File

In the following example, we use the `FileWriter` class together with its `write()` method to write some text to the file we created in the example above. Note that when you are done writing to the file, you should close it with the `close()` method:

Example

```
import java.io.FileWriter;   // Import the FileWriter class
import java.io.IOException;  // Import the IOException class to handle errors

public class WriteToFile {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    try {
      FileWriter myWriter = new FileWriter("filename.txt");
      myWriter.write("Files in Java might be tricky, but it is fun enough!");
      myWriter.close();
      System.out.println("Successfully wrote to the file.");
    } catch (IOException e) {
      System.out.println("An error occurred.");
      e.printStackTrace();
    }
  }
}
```


The output will be:

```
Successfully wrote to the file.
```

Java Read Files

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Read a File

In the previous chapter, you learned how to create and write to a file.

In the following example, we use the `Scanner` class to read the contents of the text file we created in the previous chapter:

Example

```
import java.io.File;  // Import the File class
import java.io.FileNotFoundException;  // Import this class to handle errors
import java.util.Scanner; // Import the Scanner class to read text files

public class ReadFile {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    try {
      File myObj = new File("filename.txt");
      Scanner myReader = new Scanner(myObj);
      while (myReader.hasNextLine()) {
```

Example

```
import java.io.File;  // Import the File class
import java.io.FileNotFoundException;  // Import this class to handle errors
import java.util.Scanner; // Import the Scanner class to read text files

public class ReadFile {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    try {
      File myObj = new File("filename.txt");
      Scanner myReader = new Scanner(myObj);
      while (myReader.hasNextLine()) {
        String data = myReader.nextLine();
        System.out.println(data);
      }
      myReader.close();
    } catch (FileNotFoundException e) {
      System.out.println("An error occurred.");
      e.printStackTrace();
    }
  }
}
```


The output will be:

```
Files in Java might be tricky, but it is fun enough!
```

Run Example »

Get File Information

To get more information about a file, use any of the `File` methods:

Example

```
import java.io.File;  // Import the File class

public class GetFileInfo {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    File myObj = new File("filename.txt");
    if (myObj.exists()) {
      System.out.println("File name: " + myObj.getName());
      System.out.println("Absolute path: " + myObj.getAbsolutePath());
      System.out.println("Writeable: " + myObj.canWrite());
      System.out.println("Readable " + myObj.canRead());
      System.out.println("File size in bytes " + myObj.length());
    } else {
      System.out.println("The file does not exist.");
    }
  }
}
```


The output will be:

```
File name: filename.txt
Absolute path: C:\Users\MyName\filename.txt
Writeable: true
```

```
    } else {
      System.out.println("The file does not exist.");
    }
  }
}
```

The output will be:

```
File name: filename.txt
Absolute path: C:\Users\MyName\filename.txt
Writeable: true
Readable: true
File size in bytes: 0
```


Run Example »

Note: There are many available classes in the Java API that can be used to read and write files in Java: `FileReader`, `BufferedReader`, `Files`, `Scanner`, `FileInputStream`, `FileWriter`, `BufferedWriter`, `FileOutputStream`, etc. Which one to use depends on the Java version you're working with and whether you need to read bytes or characters, and the size of the file/lines etc.

Tip: To delete a file, read our Java Delete Files chapter.

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https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_files_delete.asp

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Java Delete Files

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Delete a File

To delete a file in Java, use the `delete()` method:

Example

```
import java.io.File;  // Import the File class

public class DeleteFile {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    File myObj = new File("filename.txt");
    if (myObj.delete()) {
      System.out.println("Deleted the file: " + myObj.getName());
    } else {
      System.out.println("Failed to delete the file.");
    }
  }
```

Delete a File

To delete a file in Java, use the `delete()` method:

Example

```
import java.io.File;  // Import the File class

public class DeleteFile {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    File myObj = new File("filename.txt");
    if (myObj.delete()) {
      System.out.println("Deleted the file: " + myObj.getName());
    } else {
      System.out.println("Failed to delete the file.");
    }
  }
}
```


The output will be:

```
Deleted the file: filename.txt
```

Run Example »

https://www.w3schools.com/java/java_files_delete.asp

Delete a Folder

You can also delete a folder. However, it must be empty:

Example

```
import java.io.File;

public class DeleteFolder {
  public static void main(String[] args) {
    File myObj = new File("C:\\Users\\MyName\\Test");
    if (myObj.delete()) {
      System.out.println("Deleted the folder: " + myObj.getName());
    } else {
      System.out.println("Failed to delete the folder.");
    }
  }
}
```


The output will be:

```
Deleted the folder: Test
```

Run Example »