

The German University in Cairo (GUC) Faculty of Media Engineering and Technology Computer Science and Engineering Computer System Architecture - CSEN 601

Milestone 1 Project CA

Mohamed Ibrahim Mohamed Ahmed

Under Supervision of: **Dr. Eng. Catherine M. Elias**

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Project Objectives

The primary objective of Milestone 1 is to familiarize students with **C programming** and setting up a proper **coding environment** for file handling. The milestone focuses on creating a **C program** that reads a .txt file and prints its contents **line by line** to the terminal. This project also aims to:

- Develop **basic file handling skills** in C.
- Enhance students' understanding of parsing text files.
- Implement proper error handling mechanisms.
- Prepare students for future milestones involving **complex system interactions**.

Introduction

File handling is an essential skill in **Computer Architecture**, as many real-world applications involve reading from and writing to files. This project serves as an introduction to:

- Opening and reading files using fopen().
- Parsing file contents line by line with fgets().
- **Handling errors** when a file cannot be opened.
- Compiling and executing C programs in a Linux/Windows environment.

In this milestone, the team developed a C program that reads a .txt file and displays its content in the terminal. Each line is parsed and printed separately to ensure structured output.

Methodology

The project was implemented using the **C programming language**. Below are the key steps followed:

Step 1: Setting Up the Environment

- Installed GCC Compiler (MinGW for Windows or GCC for Linux/macOS).
- Used **Visual Studio Code** as the preferred IDE.

Step 2: Writing the C Code

A C program was developed to:

- 1. Open a file (input.txt) in read mode.
- 2. Read each line separately using fgets().
- 3. **Print each line** with a corresponding line number.
- 4. **Handle file errors** if the file does not exist.
- 5. **Pause the execution** before closing to allow review of output.

Step 3: Compilation & Execution

For Windows (MinGW Required):

```
gcc -o read_file.exe read_file.c
read_file.exe
```

Step 4: Testing the Program

Results

The developed C program successfully:

Opened and read a .txt file.
Printed each line separately.
Numbered the lines correctly.
Handled file errors properly.
Maintained a clear structure for easy debugging.

The project met all functional requirements and worked as expected.

Conclusion

This milestone helped students gain hands-on experience with **file handling in C**. The key takeaways include:

- Understanding the **importance of structured programming**.
- Learning how to **open**, **read**, **and parse files**.
- Gaining proficiency in error handling.
- Developing good debugging practices.