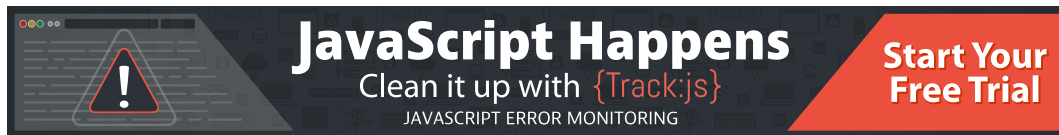


# Basic PHP File Handling — Create, Open, Read, Write, Append, Close, and Delete

By [David Walsh](#) on December 20, 2007

I don't do a great deal of file handling in my PHP code -- most of my customers don't have a need for it or there's no room for file creation in the already tight budget. On the rare occasion that I do need to manipulate files, I keep the following tip sheet.



## Create a File

```
$my_file = 'file.txt';  
$handle = fopen($my_file, 'w') or die('Cannot open file: ' . $my_file); //implicitly cre
```

## Open a File

```
$my_file = 'file.txt';  
$handle = fopen($my_file, 'w') or die('Cannot open file: ' . $my_file); //open file for
```

## Read a File

```
$my_file = 'file.txt';  
$handle = fopen($my_file, 'r');  
$data = fread($handle, filesize($my_file));
```

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```
$my_file = 'file.txt';  
$handle = fopen($my_file, 'w') or die('Cannot open file:  '.$my_file);  
$data = 'This is the data';  
fwrite($handle, $data);
```

## Append to a File

```
$my_file = 'file.txt';  
$handle = fopen($my_file, 'a') or die('Cannot open file:  '.$my_file);  
$data = 'New data line 1';  
fwrite($handle, $data);  
$new_data = "\n". 'New data line 2';  
fwrite($handle, $new_data);
```

## Close a File

```
$my_file = 'file.txt';  
$handle = fopen($my_file, 'w') or die('Cannot open file:  '.$my_file);  
//write some data here  
fclose($handle);
```

## Delete a File

```
$my_file = 'file.txt';  
unlink($my_file);
```

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into the room to the tune of “I’m Sexy and I Know It.” Can you blame us though? We watched the fundamental APIs stagnate for so long that a basic feature...



### CSS vs. JS Animation: Which is Faster?

How is it possible that JavaScript-based animation has secretly always been as fast — or faster — than CSS transitions? And, how is it possible that Adobe and Google consistently release media-rich mobile sites that rival the performance of native apps? This article serves as a point-by-point...

### Incredible Demos



### Create a Twitter AJAX Button with MooTools, jQuery, or Dojo

There’s nothing like a subtle, slick website widget that effectively uses CSS and JavaScript to enhance the user experience. Of course widgets like that take many hours to perfect, but it doesn’t take long for that effort to be rewarded with above-average user retention and...



### MooTools History Plugin

One of the reasons I love AJAX technology so much is because it allows us to avoid unnecessary page loads. Why download the header, footer, and other static data multiple times if that specific data never changes? It’s a waste of time, processing, and bandwidth. Unfortunately...

### Discussion



tahir latif

your work is very good,but need your in creating my website about cricket



sebouneeeeet

To avoid warnings, not forget if(!file\_exists("myfile.txt")) ;)



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To avoid warnings, not forget `if(!file_exists('myfile.txt')) ;)`  
your work is very good, but need your in creating my website about cricket



**Max**



Simple, but usefull!



**TitoChhabra**



Hello Everyone,  
File handling functions in PHP are extremely useful and userfriendly. PHP includes a lot of built-in functions for handling files and directories. You can read, write, delete, and get lots of information on files through the use of these functions..... for more details please check out the following link....  
<http://mindstick.com/Articles/07d7e4cf-b11c-49ea-8f4f-27c2e7f67c09/?File%20Handling%20in%20PHP>  
Thanks !!!!



**choudhary**



Quite useful! Better to add the modes of the files. So that a person can understand more about php file handling... Thanks



**Bobo**



This is basic stuff. How about a script for updating a record in an ASCII flat file?



**jeet**



so useful for freshers in php



**Gary Paul**



Once again, I need a question answered and I find my way to David's site. Thanks for all your help.  
Gary



**Some Guy**



Nice and concise! Definitely bookmarking. +1

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Just found something out thought I'd post here for everyone else,

To read a file line by line use `fgets($file_handle)`

```
$file_handle = fopen("myfile", "r");  
while (!feof($file_handle)) {  
    $line = fgets($file_handle);  
    echo $line;  
}  
fclose($file_handle);
```



**Saleem**

so useful for freshers in php



**Raja**

Nice tutorial an am preparing this and i have an Interview next week :-)



**Dreamstopixels**

Thanks for making this nice tutorial and i am learning this. I only know to handle file via Control Panel i will learn it and try all those in a local server first



**Mark - RDA Digital**

Short and to the point, thanks, exactly what I was looking for. Much easier to delete a file than I thought, but what are your thoughts on security? Does this have any gaping security holes?



**Braydon**

Ok I have the code



```
$my_file = 'file.txt';  
$handle = fopen($my_file, 'w') or die('Cannot open file: ' . $my_file);  
$data = 'This is the data';  
fwrite($handle, $data);
```

And When I See if it works I geta

```
Parse error: syntax error, unexpected '$my_file' (T_VARIABLE)
```

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Anup Tiwari

You're missing a semicolon at the end.



**Bolivia Diablo**

Braydon, you're probably missing a semi-colon in the line that comes before the code shown in your comment.



**Adam**

how come my output file has bo breaks? it is writing everything as a single line.



**Adam**

how come my output file has no breaks? it is writing everything as a single line. I want output like this:

Line1

Line2:

Line3

.....



**Bhuwan Sehgal**

You Have to use This don't use \n

```
$data = 'This
```

```
is
```

```
the
```

```
data';
```



**Fede**

Actually, using \n does work but you need to use “\n”, not ‘\n’.



**raja rajan**

hmm.make it simple



**james**

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`SQLSTATE[HY000] [2002] No such file or directory`  
Warning: `fopen(user_images/536974.txt): failed to open stream: Permission denied`  
Cannot open file: `user_images/536974.txt`



james



```
$upload_dir = 'user_images/'; // upload directory
$random_name= rand(1000,1000000).".". "txt";
$my_file = $upload_dir.$random_name;
$handle = fopen($my_file, 'w') or die('Cannot open file: ' . $my_file);
$data = $userjob;
fwrite($handle, $data);
fclose($handle)
```

This is my code

Wrap your code in `<pre class="{language}"></pre>` tags, link to a [GitHub gist](#), [JSFiddle fiddle](#), or [CodePen pen](#) to embed!

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