

11.3 Files and Streams

• Read/Write functions in standard library

- `fgetc`
 - Reads one character from a file
 - Takes a `FILE` pointer as an argument
 - `fgetc(stdin)` equivalent to `getchar()`
- `fputc`
 - Writes one character to a file
 - Takes a `FILE` pointer and a character to write as an argument
 - `fputc('a', stdout)` equivalent to `putchar('a')`
- `fgets`
 - Reads a line from a file
- `fputs`
 - Writes a line to a file
- `fscanf / fprintf`
 - File processing equivalents of `scanf` and `printf`

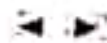


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11.4 Creating a Sequential-Access File

- `fprintf`
 - Used to print to a file
 - Like `printf`, except first argument is a `FILE` pointer (pointer to the file you want to print in)
- `feof(FILEpointer)`
 - Returns true if end-of-file indicator (no more data to process) is set for the specified file
- `fclose(FILEpointer)`
 - Closes specified file
 - Performed automatically when program ends
 - Good practice to close files explicitly
- Details
 - Programs may process no files, one file, or many files
 - Each file must have a unique name and should have its own pointer



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11.4 Creating a Sequential-Access File

• C imposes no file structure

- No notion of records in a file
- Programmer must provide file structure

• Creating a File

- `FILE *cfPtr;`
- Or `FILE* cfPtr;`
 - Creates a `FILE` pointer called `cfPtr`
- `cfPtr = fopen("clients.dat", "w");`
 - Function `fopen` returns a `FILE` pointer to file specified
 - Takes two arguments - file to open and file open mode
 - If open fails, `NULL` returned

Personally, I like `cfPtrW`. `W` is a reminder for "w".



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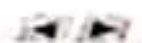
```

1 /* Fig. 11.3: fig11_03.c
2    Create a sequential file */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4
5 int main( void )
6 {
7     int account;    /* account number */
8     char name[ 30 ]; /* account name */
9     double balance; /* account balance */
10
11     FILE *cfPtr;    /* cfPtr = clients.dat file pointer */
12
13     /* fopen opens file. Exit program if unable to create file */
14     if ( ( cfPtr = fopen( "clients.dat", "w" ) ) == NULL ) {
15         printf( "File could not be opened\n" );
16     } /* end if */
17     else {
18         printf( "Enter the account, name, and balance.\n" );
19         printf( "Enter EOF to end input.\n" );
20         printf( "? " );
21         scanf( "%d%s%lf", &account, name, &balance );
22     }
23 }

```

FILE pointer definition creates new file pointer

fopen function opens a file, w argument means the file is opened for writing



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11.7 Creating a Random-Access File

▪ Data in random access files

- Unformatted (stored as "raw bytes")
 - All data of the same type (ints, for example) uses the same amount of memory
 - All records of the same type have a fixed length
 - Data not human readable.

▪ What is human unreadable?

- Use notepad to open a pdf file, you will know.



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11.7 Creating a Random-Access File

▪ Writing structs

`fwrite(&myObject, sizeof (struct myStruct), 1, myPtr);`

- `sizeof` – returns size in bytes of object in parentheses

▪ To write several array elements

- Pointer to array as first argument
- Number of elements to write as third argument

11.7 Creating a Random-Access File

▪ Unformatted I/O functions

- `fwrite`
 - Transfer bytes from a location in memory to a file
- `fread`
 - Transfer bytes from a file to a location in memory
- Example:
 - `fwrite(&number, sizeof(int), 1, myPtr);`
 - `&number` – Location to transfer bytes from
 - `sizeof(int)` – Number of bytes to transfer
 - `1` – For arrays, number of elements to transfer
 - In this case, "one element" of an array is being transferred
 - `myPtr` – File to transfer to or from



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```
1 /* Fig. 11.11: fig11_11.c
2    Creating a random-access file sequentially */
3 #include <stdio.h>
4
5 /* clientData structure definition */
6 struct clientData {
7     int acctNum;          /* account number */
8     char lastName[ 15 ]; /* account last name */
9     char firstName[ 10 ]; /* account first name */
10    double balance;       /* account balance */
11 }; /* end structure clientData */
12
13 int main( void )
14 {
15     int i; /* counter used to count from 1-100 */
16
17     /* create clientData with default information */
18     struct clientData blankClient = { 0, "", "", 0.0 };
```

[Outline](#)

fig11_11.c

(1 of 2)

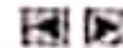
11.3 Files and Streams

- C views each file as a sequence of bytes

- File ends with the *end-of-file marker*
- Or, file ends at a specified byte

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... n-1
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... n-1 end of file marker

Operating system	Key combination
Linux/Mac OS X/UNIX	<Ctrl> d
Windows	<Ctrl> z



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11.3 Files and Streams

- FILE structure

- File descriptor
- Index into operating system array called the open file table

- File Control Block (FCB)

- Found in every array element, system uses it to administer the file

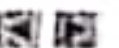
11.3 Files and Streams

- Stream created when a file is opened

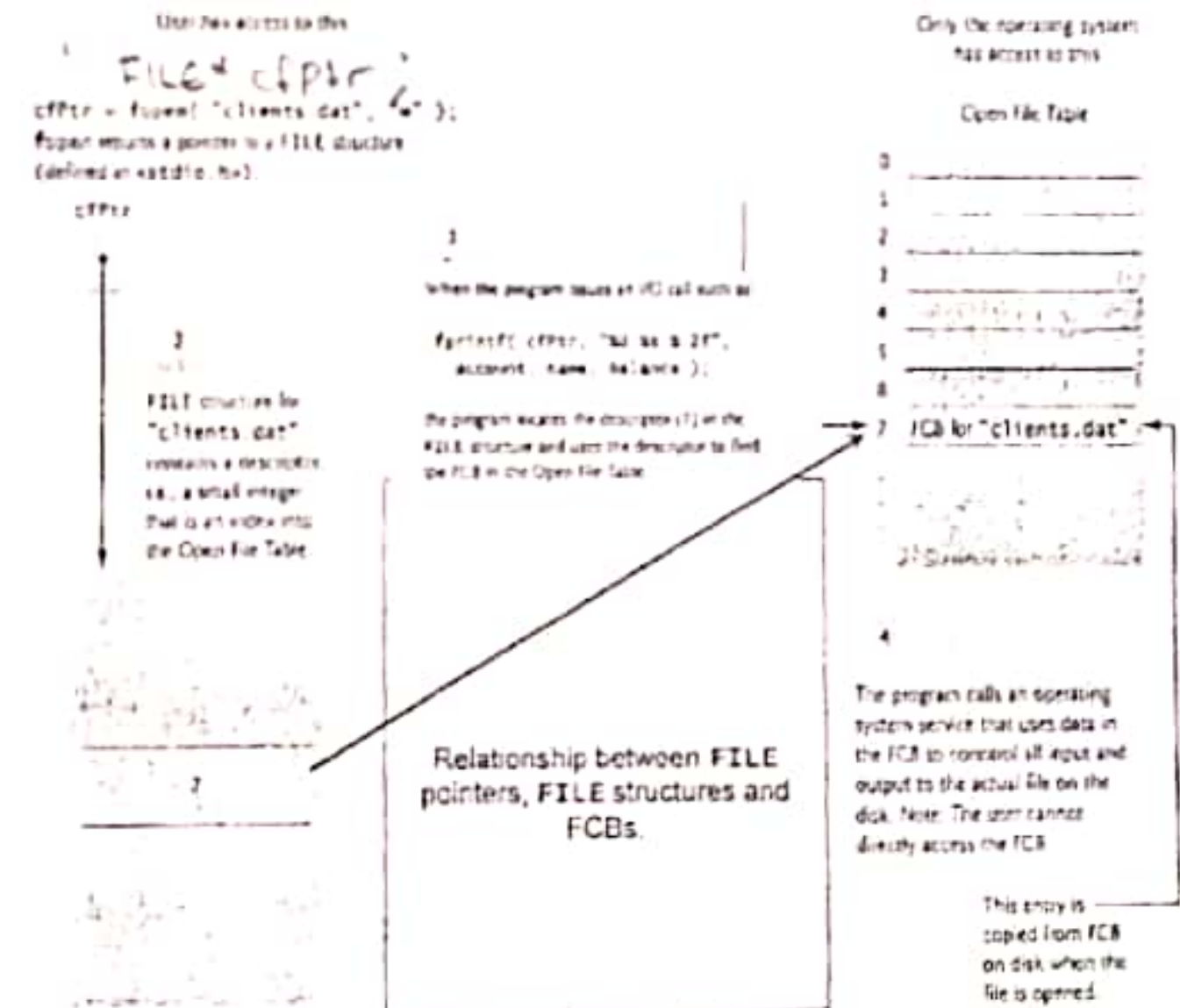
- Provide communication channel between files and programs
- Opening a file returns a pointer to a FILE structure

- Example file pointers:

- stdin - standard input (keyboard) This is a file
- stdout - standard output (screen) This is a file
- stderr - standard error (screen) This is a file



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Enter request

- 1 - List accounts with zero balances
- 2 - List accounts with credit balances
- 3 - List accounts with debit balances
- 4 - End of run

7 1

Accounts with zero balances:

300	White	0.00
-----	-------	------

7 2

Accounts with credit balances:

400	Stone	-42.16
-----	-------	--------

7 3

Accounts with debit balances:

100	Jones	24.98
200	Doe	345.67
500	Rich	224.62

7 4

End of run.

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11.6 Random-Access Files

▪ Random access files

- Access individual records without searching through other records
- Instant access to records in a file
- Data can be inserted without destroying other data
- Data previously stored can be updated or deleted without overwriting

▪ Implemented using fixed length records

- Sequential files do not have fixed length records

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11.5 Reading Data from a Sequential-Access File

▪ Sequential access file

- Cannot be modified without the risk of destroying other data
- Fields can vary in size
 - Different representation in files and screen than internal representation
 - 1, 34, -890 are all ints, but have different sizes on disk
- Note, int 1, char '1', and string "1" have no difference on disk.

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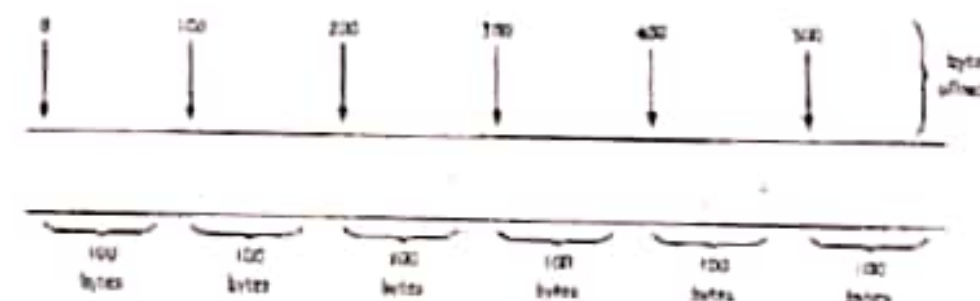


Fig. 11.10 | C's view of a random-access file