

# PHP - Copy File

You can copy an existing file to a new file in three different ways –

- Reading a line from one and writing to another in a loop
- Reading entire contents to a string and writing the string to another file
- Using PHP's built-in function library includes `copy()` function.

## Method 1

In the first approach, you can read each line from an existing file and write into a new file till the existing file reaches the end of file.

In the following PHP script, an already existing file (`hello.txt`) is read line by line in a loop, and each line is written to another file (`new.txt`)

It is assumed that "`hello.txt`" contains the following text –

```
Hello World  
TutorialsPoint  
PHP Tutorials
```

## Example

Here is the PHP code to create a copy of an existing file –

```
<?php  
$file = fopen("hello.txt", "r");  
$newfile = fopen("new.txt", "w");  
while(! feof($file)) {  
    $str = fgets($file);  
    fputs($newfile, $str);  
}  
fclose($file);  
fclose($newfile);  
?>
```

The newly created "`new.txt`" file should have exactly the same contents.

## Method 2

Here we use two built-in functions from the PHP library –

```
file_get_contents(  
    string $filename,  
    bool $use_include_path = false,  
    ?resource $context = null,  
    int $offset = 0,  
    ?int $length = null  
): string|false
```

This function reads the entire file into a string. The \$filename parameter is a string containing the name of the file to be read

The other function is –

```
file_put_contents(  
    string $filename,  
    mixed $data,  
    int $flags = 0,  
    ?resource $context = null  
): int|false
```

The function puts the contents of \$data in \$filename. It returns the number of bytes written.

## Example

In the following example, we read contents of "hello.txt" in a string **\$data**, and use it as a parameter to write into "test.txt" file.

```
<?php  
$source = "hello.txt";  
$target = "test.txt";  
$data = file_get_contents($source);  
file_put_contents($target, $data);  
?>
```

Explore our [latest online courses](#) and learn new skills at your own pace. Enroll and become a certified expert to boost your career.

## Method 3

PHP provides the `copy()` function, exclusively to perform copy operation.

```
copy(string $from, string $to, ?resource $context = null): bool
```

The **\$from** parameter is a string containing the existing file. The **\$to** parameter is also a string containing the name of the new file to be created. If the target file already exists, it will be overwritten.

The copy operation will return **true** or **false** based on the file being successfully copied or not.

## Example

Let's use the `copy()` function to make "text.txt" as a copy of "hello.txt" file.

```
<?php
    $source = "a.php";
    $target = "a1.php";
    if (!copy($source, $target)) {
        echo "failed to copy $source...\n";
    }
?>
```