

Q. What are the `fprintf` and `fscanf` function?

Write down the general form.

→ The functions `fprintf` and `fscanf` perform input output operations that are familiar to the `printf` and `scanf` functions. The functions `fprintf` and `fscanf` work on files. The first argument of these functions is a file pointer. The general form of `fprintf` is

```
fprintf(fp, "control string", list);
```

where `fp` is a file pointer that has been opened for writing. The control string contains output for the item in the list. The list may include variables, constants and strings.

For example,

```
fprintf(f1, "%s %d %f", name, age, 7.5);
```

Here, `name` is an array variable of type `char` and `age` is an `int` variable.

The general format of `fscanf` is

```
fscanf(fp, "control string", list);
```

This statement would cause the reading of the items in the list from the file `fp`. For example,

```
fscanf(f2, "%s %d", item, &quantity);
```

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Some operations of different functions:

Function Name	Operation
fopen()	Creates a new file for use. Opens an existing file for use.
fclose()	Closes a file which has been opened for use.
getc()	Reads a character from a file.
putc()	Writes a character to a file.
fprintf()	Writes a set of data values to a file.
fscanf()	Reads a set of data values to a file.
getw()	Reads an integer from a file.
putw()	Writes an integer to a file.
fseek()	sets the position to a desired point in the file.
ftell()	Gives the current position in the file.
rewind()	sets the position to the beginning of the file.

Exercise

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51 Mode of File Management:

→ Mode specifies the purpose of opening a file.
Some mode of file management:

1. **r**: This mode open the file for reading only. Statement:

```
FILE *P1;  
P1 = fopen("data", "r");
```

2. **w**: This mode open the file for writing only. Statement:

```
FILE *P2;  
P2 = fopen("results", "w");
```

3. **a**: This mode open the file for adding data to it. Statement:

```
FILE *P3;  
P3 = fopen("schedule", "a");
```

4. **rt**: This mode open the file for both opening and writing.

5. **wt**: This mode open the file for both opening and writing.

6. **at**: This mode open the file for both opening and writing.

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Q. How to store data in a file in the secondary memory?

→ If we want to store data in a file in the secondary memory, we must specify certain things about the file, to the operating system. They include the following:

1. File Name

2. Data structure

3. Purpose.

File name is a string of characters that make up a valid filename for the operating system.

It may contain two parts, a primary name and an optional period with the extension.

Example: Input.data

Student.c

Data structure of a file is defined as FILE in the library of standard input-output function definitions. Therefore, all file should be declared as type FILE before they used. FILE is a defined data type.

When we open a file, we must specify what we want to do with the file. For example, we may write data to the file or read the already existing data.

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Following is the general format for declaring and opening a file

```
FILE *fp;  
fp = fopen("filename", "mode");
```

The first statement declares that the variable `fp` as a pointer to the data type `FILE`. And we know `FILE` is a structure that is defined in the input-output library. The second statement opens the file named `filename` and assigned as identifier to the `FILE` type pointer `fp`.

The second statement also specifies the purpose of opening this file. Mode can do this job.

Mode can be one of the following:

`r` → open the file for reading only.

`w` → open the file for writing only.

`a` → Open the file for appending (or adding) data.

Note that the file name and mode are specified as strings. They should be enclosed in double quotation marks.

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File Error handling within input-output operation
→ It is possible that an error may occur during input-output operations on a file. Typical error situations include the following:

1. Trying to read beyond the end of file mark.
2. Device overflow.
3. Trying to use a file that has not been opened.
4. Trying to perform an operation on a file when the file is opened for another type of operation.
5. Opening a file with an invalid file name.
6. Attempting to write to a write protected file.

If we fail to check such read and write errors, a program may behave abnormally when an error occurs. An unchecked error may result in a premature termination of the program or incorrect output. Fortunately, we have two status-inquiry library functions, i.e., "feof" and "ferror" that can help us to detect input-output errors in the files.

The "feof" function can be used to test for an end of file condition.

(feof == 1) to

check for end of file condition.

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If `fp` is a pointer to the file that has just been opened for reading. Then the statement is:

```
if (feof(fp))  
    printf("End of data.\n");
```

Would display the message "End of data". on reaching the end of file condition.

The `ferror` function reports the status of the file indicated. It also takes a `FILE` pointer as its argument and returns a non-zero integer if an error has been detected up to that point, during processing. It returns 0, otherwise. The statement

```
if (ferror(fp) != 0)  
    printf("An error has occurred.\n");
```

would print the error message, if the reading is not successful.

We know that whatever a file is opened using `fopen` function, a file pointer is returned. If the file cannot be opened for some reason, then the function returns a Null pointer.

```
if (fp == NULL)  
    printf("File could not be opened.\n");
```