



Filed Away

Week 7

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File



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What is a file?

A long series of bits, with a label... That's it...

File.TXT

<Name of Data> . <How to Read>

Your file extension is just a label, telling programs what kind of bits are there. It tells programs *how* to read the data.

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“Make” a File Type

Just rename a file to `name.extension` with that extension being whatever you want, assuming it isn't already recognized by your OS.

That's it. The hard part is telling programs how to read that file.

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File Stream



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```
#include <fstream>
```

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Reading Files

```
std::fstream file(filepath, std::ios::in | std::ios::binary);
```

```
if (!file.is_open()) {...handle the error}
```

```
uint32_t output;
```

```
file.read((char*)&output, sizeof(uint32_t));
```

```
// Read only uses char (bytes) so we must trick it to use other  
types
```




Writing to Files

```
std::ofstream file;
```

```
file.open(filepath, std::ios::out | std::ios::trunc |  
std::ios::binary);
```

```
if (!file.is_open()) {...handle errors};
```

```
uint32_t output = 2025;
```

```
file.write((char*)&output, sizeof(uint32_t));
```

```
// This is the same trick with char as with reading from files
```




File Stream Modes

`std::ios::in` // “Input” – Read from files

`std::ios::out` // “Output” – Write to files

`std::ios::binary` // “Binary” Use binary instead of text

`std::ios::trunc` // “Truncate” – Delete previous file contents

`std::ios::ate` // “At End” – Begin at the file’s last position

`std::ios::app` // “Append” – Cannot overwrite current file
contents



Assignment



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Create a File Type

Use this file type to store the data for an animation.

Store the data in binary (trust me, it's easier)

I will walk you through this process in class!

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