**PHP file handling**

Every language supports File handling; file handling has its own importance, as we know that to make the output permanent we need to use file handling. PHP supports this feature using the following functions:

1. fopen: To open a file in a particular mode, like r: read, w: write, a: append etc.
2. feof: To check whether the pointer has reached at the end of the file or not.
3. fclose: To close the file.
4. fgets: To extract the content line by line.
5. fgetc: To extract the content character by character.
6. fread: To read entire content from a file.
7. fwrite: To write string to file.

The file may be opened in one of the following modes:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Modes** | **Description** |
| r | Read only. Starts at the beginning of the file |
| r+ | Read/Write. Starts at the beginning of the file |
| w | Write only. Opens and clears the contents of file; or creates a new file if it doesn't exist |
| w+ | Read/Write. Opens and clears the contents of file; or creates a new file if it doesn't exist |
| a | Append. Opens and writes to the end of the file or creates a new file if it doesn't exist |
| a+ | Read/Append. Preserves file content by writing to the end of the file |
| x | Write only. Creates a new file. Returns FALSE and an error if file already exists |
| x+ | Read/Write. Creates a new file. Returns FALSE and an error if file already exists |

**Opening a file**

<?php

$file=fopen("welcome.txt","r");  
?>

**Closing a file**

<?php  
 $file = fopen("test.txt","r");  
 //some code to be executed  
 fclose($file);  
?>

**Check End-of-file**

The feof() function checks if the "end-of-file" (EOF) has been reached. The feof() function is useful for looping through data of unknown length.

if (feof($file)) echo "End of file";

**Reading a File Line by Line**

The fgets() function is used to read a single line from a file.

<?php  
 $file = fopen("welcome.txt", "r") or exit("Unable to open file!");  
 //Output a line of the file until the end is reached  
 while(!feof($file))  
   {  
   echo fgets($file). "<br />";  
   }  
fclose($file);  
?>

**Reading a File Character by Character**

The fgetc( ) function is used to read a single character from a file.

<?php  
 $file=fopen("welcome.txt","r") or exit("Unable to open file!");  
 while (!feof($file))  
   {  
   echo fgetc($file);  
   }  
 fclose($file);  
?>

**Reading Entire content from a file**

The fread( ) function is used to read entire content of a file.

Example:

<?php

$file=fopen("welcome.txt","r");

$data=fread($file,filesize("welcome.txt"));

echo $data;

fclose($file);

?>

**Writing to a file**

The fwrite( ) function is used to write entire content to a file.

Example:

<?php

$file=fopen("welcome.txt","w");

$data="The content is written in file weelcome.txt";

fwrite($file,$data);

fclose($file);

?>

**Appending to a file**

<?php

$file=fopen("welcome.txt","a") or exit("Unable to open a file");

fwrite($file,"my text 1");

fclose($file);

?>