Node.js provides multiple methods for handling files, primarily through the built-in fs (file system) module. Here’s an overview of common file-handling tasks and examples:

### **1. Reading a File**

* **Using fs.readFile**: Reads the entire content of a file asynchronously.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

fs.readFile('example.txt', 'utf8', (err, data) => {

if (err) {

console.error('Error reading file:', err);

return;

}

console.log('File content:', data);

});

* **Using fs.createReadStream**: Reads a file in chunks, which is useful for large files to prevent memory overload.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

const readStream = fs.createReadStream('example.txt', 'utf8');

readStream.on('data', (chunk) => {

console.log('Received chunk:', chunk);

});

readStream.on('end', () => {

console.log('File read completed');

});

readStream.on('error', (err) => {

console.error('Error reading file:', err);

});

### **2. Writing to a File**

* **Using fs.writeFile**: Writes data to a file asynchronously. If the file does not exist, it will create it; if it exists, it will overwrite it.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

fs.writeFile('output.txt', 'Hello, Node.js!', (err) => {

if (err) {

console.error('Error writing to file:', err);

return;

}

console.log('File written successfully');

});

* **Using fs.createWriteStream**: Writes data in chunks. This is efficient for large data writes or streams.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

const writeStream = fs.createWriteStream('output.txt');

writeStream.write('Hello, ');

writeStream.write('Node.js!\n');

writeStream.end();

writeStream.on('finish', () => {

console.log('File written successfully');

});

writeStream.on('error', (err) => {

console.error('Error writing to file:', err);

});

### **3. Appending Data to a File**

* **Using fs.appendFile**: Adds data to the end of an existing file. If the file does not exist, it will create it.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

fs.appendFile('output.txt', 'This is an appended line.\n', (err) => {

if (err) {

console.error('Error appending to file:', err);

return;

}

console.log('Data appended to file');

});

### **4. Deleting a File**

* **Using fs.unlink**: Deletes a specified file.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

fs.unlink('output.txt', (err) => {

if (err) {

console.error('Error deleting file:', err);

return;

}

console.log('File deleted successfully');

});

### **5. Renaming a File**

* **Using fs.rename**: Renames or moves a file.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

fs.rename('output.txt', 'newOutput.txt', (err) => {

if (err) {

console.error('Error renaming file:', err);

return;

}

console.log('File renamed successfully');

});

### **6. Checking File Existence**

* **Using fs.existsSync**: Checks if a file exists synchronously.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

if (fs.existsSync('example.txt')) {

console.log('File exists');

} else {

console.log('File does not exist');

}

### **7. Opening a File Descriptor**

* **Using fs.open**: Opens a file and returns a file descriptor for lower-level operations.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

fs.open('example.txt', 'r', (err, fd) => {

if (err) {

console.error('Error opening file:', err);

return;

}

console.log('File descriptor:', fd);

fs.close(fd, (err) => {

if (err) console.error('Error closing file:', err);

});

});

### **8. Reading a File Asynchronously in Chunks**

This approach is useful when you want to read a file progressively, especially if the file size is large.

javascript

Copy code

const fs = require('fs');

fs.open('example.txt', 'r', (err, fd) => {

if (err) {

console.error('Error opening file:', err);

return;

}

const buffer = Buffer.alloc(1024); // Allocate a buffer of 1 KB

fs.read(fd, buffer, 0, buffer.length, 0, (err, bytesRead, buffer) => {

if (err) {

console.error('Error reading file:', err);

return;

}

console.log('Bytes read:', bytesRead);

console.log('File content:', buffer.toString('utf8', 0, bytesRead));

fs.close(fd, (err) => {

if (err) console.error('Error closing file:', err);

});

});

});

### **Summary**

| **Task** | **Method** | **Description** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Read File** | fs.readFile | Reads the file content asynchronously |
| **Read in Chunks** | fs.createReadStream | Reads large files in chunks |
| **Write File** | fs.writeFile | Writes data, creating or overwriting a file |
| **Write in Chunks** | fs.createWriteStream | Writes data in chunks |
| **Append File** | fs.appendFile | Adds data to the end of an existing file |
| **Delete File** | fs.unlink | Deletes the file |
| **Rename File** | fs.rename | Renames or moves the file |
| **Check Existence** | fs.existsSync | Checks if a file exists synchronously |
| **Open File** | fs.open | Opens a file for low-level operations |

These examples demonstrate core file handling tasks in Node.js, making it easy to manage files in applications.