

WebClient.OpenRead Method (String)

.NET Framework (current version)

Opens a readable stream for the data downloaded from a resource with the URI specified as a [String](#).

Namespace: [System.Net](#)
Assembly: System (in System.dll)

Syntax

C#

```
public Stream OpenRead(  
    string address  
)
```

Parameters

address
Type: [System.String](#)
The URI specified as a [String](#) from which to download data.

Return Value
Type: [System.IO.Stream](#)
A [Stream](#) used to read data from a resource.

Exceptions

Exception	Condition
ArgumentNullException	The <i>address</i> parameter is null .
WebException	The URI formed by combining BaseAddress , <i>address</i> is invalid. –or– An error occurred while downloading data.

Remarks

The `OpenRead` method creates a [Stream](#) instance used to read the contents of the resource specified by the *address* parameter. This method blocks while opening the stream. To continue executing while waiting for the stream, use one of the [OpenReadAsync](#) methods.

If the [BaseAddress](#) property is not an empty string (""), and *address* does not contain an absolute URI, *address* must be a relative URI that is combined with [BaseAddress](#) to form the absolute URI of the requested data. If the [QueryString](#) property is not **null**, it is appended to *address*.

This method uses the RETR command to download an FTP resource. For an HTTP resource, the GET method is used.

Note

You must call [Stream.Close](#) when finished with the [Stream](#) to avoid running out of system resources.

Note

This member outputs trace information when you enable network tracing in your application. For more information, see [Network Tracing in the .NET Framework](#).

Examples

The following code example opens the resource identified by [uriString](#) and displays the results on the system console. Note that the [Stream](#) returned by `OpenRead` is closed when the data has been read.

C#

```
// Create a new WebClient instance.
WebClient myWebClient = new WebClient();
// Download home page data.
Console.WriteLine("Accessing {0} ...", uriString);
// Open a stream to point to the data stream coming from the Web resource.
Stream myStream = myWebClient.OpenRead(uriString);

Console.WriteLine("\nDisplaying Data :\n");
StreamReader sr = new StreamReader(myStream);
Console.WriteLine(sr.ReadToEnd());

// Close the stream.
myStream.Close();
```

Version Information

.NET Framework

Available since 1.1

See Also

[OpenRead Overload](#)

[WebClient Class](#)

[System.Net Namespace](#)

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