



PROGRAMMING ESSENTIALS WEBINAR

DAY 9

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file handling



Opening a file

- The `open()` function is used in Python to open and read a file, and returns a *file object*.
- The `open()` function accepts two arguments:
 - `open(file_name, mode)`
- There are *three* main modes when reading files:
 - Reading (default mode)
 - Writing
 - Appending

Opening a file | Some rules

- If the file **does not exist**:
 - During reading : IOError
 - During writing : New file will be created
 - During appending : New file will be created
- If the file **exists**:
 - During reading : File will be opened/accessed
 - During writing : Contents of the existing file will be erased
 - During appending : Contents of the existing file will be preserved

Reading a file

- Create a text file named `words.txt` with the following lines of text:

Hello

world,

I am inside a file!

Reading a file | Reading a single line

```
fin = open("words.txt", "r")  
file_container = fin.readline()  
print(file_container)  
fin.close()  
# Hello\n
```

Reading a file | Reading multiple lines

```
fin = open("words.txt", "r")
file_container = fin.readlines()
print(file_container)
fin.close()
# ['Hello\n', 'world,\n', 'I am inside a
file!\n']
```


Reading a file | Reading the entire file as a string

```
fin = open("words.txt", "r")  
file_container = fin.read()  
print(file_container)  
fin.close()  
#Hello  
#world,  
#I am inside a file!
```

Reading a file | Reading multiple lines – removing next line characters

```
fin = open("words.txt", "r")
file_container = fin.readlines()
fc = []
for line in file_container:
    fc.append(line.strip())
print(fc)
fin.close()
```

Reading a file | alt. way of reading files

```
with open("words.txt", "r") as fin:  
    file_container = fin.readlines()  
    for line in file_container:  
        print(line.strip())
```

```
#Hello  
#world,  
#I am inside a file!
```

Writing to a file

```
with open('output.txt', 'w') as fout:  
    fout.write('hello')  
    fout.write('world')
```

Appending to a file

```
with open('output.txt', 'a') as fslide:  
    fslide.write('anotherone!')
```