



PHP File Handling

File handling is an important part of any web application. You often need to open and process a file for different tasks.

PHP Manipulating Files

PHP has several functions for creating, reading, uploading and editing files.

NB: When you are manipulating files you must be very careful. You can do a lot of damage if you do something wrong.

PHP File Open/Read/Close

You can use the **fopen()** and **readfile()** to open a file. The **fopen()** gives you more option than the **readfile()** function.

The first parameter of **fopen()** contains the name of the file to be opened and the second parameter specifies in which mode the file should be opened.

A file can be opened in some of these modes below:

| Modes | Description |
|----------|---|
| r | Open a file for read only. |
| w | Open a file for write only. Erases the contents of the file or creates a new file if it doesn't exist. File pointer starts at the beginning of the file. |
| a | Open a file for write only. The existing data in the file is preserved. File pointer starts at the end of the file. Creates a new file if the file doesn't exist. |

The **fread()** function reads from an open file. The first parameter of **fread()** function contains the name of the file to read from and the second parameter specifies the maximum number of bytes to read.

The **fclose()** function is used to close an open file. It is a good programming practice to close all files after you have finished with them. You don't want an open file running around on your server taking up resources.

The **fclose()** function requires the name of the file for a variable that holds the filename we want to close.

