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Introduction to fseek() in C

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As we all know that C is one of the commonly used programming languages. It also dea working in the files and performing all the operations related to the files. C provides inbuilt library functions that are ready to use by importing the library in the program and following

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requirements.

Syntax

The basic syntax of how the fseek() function is used in C is given below:

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```
int fseek(FILE *stream, long int offset, int pos)
```

Where,

- **stream:** It indicates the file object that is used to identify the file stream.
- **offset:** It is defined in 'long integer' data type and is used to specify the offset in terms of the number of bytes or characters where the position indicator needs to be placed to define the new file position.
- **pos:** It defines the point where the file offset needs to be added. In other terms, it defines the position where the file pointer needs to be moved.

It is generally defined by 3 constants given below:

- **SEEK_CUR:** It indicates the current position of the pointer of the file.
- **SEEK_END:** As the name indicates, it moves the pointer of the file to the end of th
- **SEEK_SET:** As the name indicates, it moves the file pointer to the beginning of the the file

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arguments along with the other file functions to perform their respective tasks. It is basically a C function used for handling the file operations. In C, file pointer is returned by the fopen() function (which is also an in-built function) used for opening any file in C and 'numbytes' is used to return the number of bytes from the file origin. By using the fseek() function in C, the desired read and write operations can be performed by locating the file pointer and moving it accordingly.

Example to Implement fseek() in C

Below given are some of the examples mentioned :

Example #1

Using the fseek() function in C in the read mode of the file.

Code:

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main()
{
FILE *fx;
fx = fopen("new_file.txt", "r");
//Using the fseek function to move the file pointer to the end
fseek(fx, 0, SEEK_END);
// Using the file function in order to Print the position of fi
pointer
printf("Position of file pointer is : ");
printf("%ld \n", ftell(fx));
```

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```
// printing the resulting file after 10 characters
printf("Resulting bytes after the 10 characters in a file are: ");
while( (ch=fgetc(fx)) != EOF)
// using function 'putchar(x)'' to print the file characters on
console
putchar(ch);
return 0;
}
```

File: new_file.txt:

```
Hello we are learning fseek function in c
```

Output:

```
Position of file pointer is : 41
Resulting bytes after the 10 characters in a file are: re learning fseek function in c
```

Explanation: In the above code, there is a file 'new_file.txt' that already exists in the system. First, we are including the stdio.h library which is mandatory to use fseek() function in C for any file related I/O operations. First, the file is opened using the fopen() function and the file pointer is returned by it. Now the fseek() function is used to move the file pointer to the end of the file. After that the total number of file characters are printed on the console or the position of the pointer which is at the last of the file is printed using the 'ftell()' function. fseek() functio again used in order to move the file pointer to the 11th position and then the resulting characters of file after skipping the first 10 characters are printed on the console using putchar() function.

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Example #2

Using the fseek() function in C in write mode.

Code:

```
// C library mandatory to use C I/O operation
#include <stdio.h>
int main () {
```

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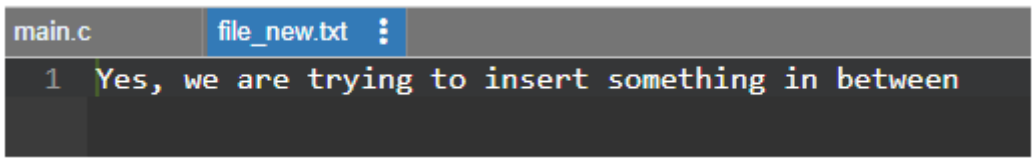
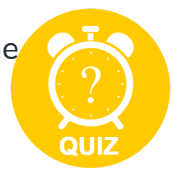
```
// writing in the file using 'fputs() function'
fputs("Yes, we are learning fseek function in C", fx);
//using fseek() function to move the file pointer after 12 characters
fseek( fx, 12, SEEK_SET );
// inserting the data in the file
fputs("trying to insert something in between", fx);
//closing the file using 'fclose() function'
fclose(fx);
return(0);
}
```

Output File: file_new.txt is created in the system with the following data in it.



Explanation: In the above example, we are performing the simple task of creating a new file with the name 'file_new.txt'. File is opened using the function 'fopen()' in the write mode (that's why we have used w+). In order to isert the data in the file, fputs() function is used with the string which needs to be inserted. Now the fseek() function is used in order to move the file pointer 12 characters ahead in the file. fputs() function is again used in order to overwrite the data of the file. After performing all the operations, fclose() function is used to close the



Conclusion

The above description clearly explains the fseek() function in C and how it is used in C language. If the fseek() operation is successful, it returns a zero value otherwise it would return

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This is a guide to fseek() in C. Here we discuss an introduction to fseek() in C, syntax, parameters, how does it work with programming examples. You can also go through our other related articles to learn more –

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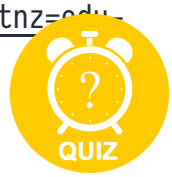

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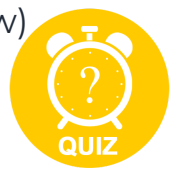

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