

Python File IO Basics | Python Tutorials For Abso...

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Python File IO Basics

You must have noticed that till now we have been learning one new concept per tutorial. For some important concepts like loops we had to allocate two tutorials so we can grasp the concept of both loops (for and while) separately. But now in the case of the file, we have allocated the next five tutorials (excluding the exercise and their solutions). So, from this, you can take a hint that how important file handling is in programming.

In this tutorial we are not getting into files in detail, instead, we are discussing the basics of the file and its modes in a theoretical manner. In computer terms, “a file is a resource for saving data and information in computer hardware”. A file is stored in the form of bytes in hardware. A file is opened in the RAM, but it is stored in the hardware because the hardware is non-volatile i.e. it stores its data permanently. On the other hand, RAM is volatile, it loses its data when the system is shut down.

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Unlike C or C++, file handling in python is relatively easy and simple. Python treats files differently as text or binary and this is important. There are two types of files that we normally encounter in our computer daily. The first one is a text file and the second one is a binary file. We can understand by the name of the text file that it must contain text in it. The



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Modes of opening file in Python:

There are many modes of opening a file in Python, unlike other languages Python has provided its users a variety of options. We will discuss seven of them in this tutorial.

- `r` : `r` mode opens a file for read-only. We do not have permission to update or change any data in this mode.
- `w` : `w` mode does not concern itself with what is present in the file. It just opens a file for writing and if there is already some data present in the file, it overwrites it.
- `x` : `x` is used to create a new file. It does not work for an already existing file, as in such cases the operation fails.



as a string.

- `b` : `b` stands for binary and this mode can only open the binary files, that are read in bytes. The binary files include images, documents, or all other files that require specific software to be read.
- `+` : In plus mode, we can read and write a file simultaneously. The mode is mostly used in cases where we want to update our file.

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