

READ FILE IN DART

Introduction To File Handling

File handling is an important part of any programming language. In this section, you will learn how to read the file in a dart programming language.

Read File In Dart

Assume that you have a file named `test.txt` in the same directory of your dart program.

```
Welcome to test.txt file.  
This is a test file.
```

Now, you can read this file using **File** class and **readAsStringSync()** method.

```
// dart program to read from file  
import 'dart:io';  
  
void main() {  
    // creating file object  
    File file = File('test.txt');  
    // read file  
    String contents = file.readAsStringSync();  
    // print file  
    print(contents);  
}
```

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Get File Information

In this example below, you will learn how to get file information like file location, file size, and last modified time.

```
import 'dart:io';

void main() {
    // open file
    File file = File('test.txt');
    // get file location
    print('File path: ${file.path}');
    // get absolute path
    print('File absolute path: ${file.absolute.path}');
    // get file size
    print('File size: ${file.lengthSync()} bytes');
    // get last modified time
    print('Last modified: ${file.lastModifiedSync()}');
}
```

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Info

Note: If you try to get information of a file that does not exist, then it will throw an exception.

CSV File

A CSV (**Comma Separated Values**) file is a plain text file that contains data organized in a table format, where columns are separated by commas and rows are separated by line breaks. CSV files are used for:

- Data exchange between different applications.
- Data backup and restore.
- Importing and exporting data from databases.
- Automation of data processing tasks.

Read CSV File In Dart

Assume that you have a CSV file named `test.csv` in the same directory of your dart program.

```
Name,Email,Phone
John, john@gmail.com, 1234567890
Smith, smith@gmail.com, 0987654321
```

Now, you can read this file using **File** class and **readAsStringSync()** method. We will use **split()** method to split the string into a list of strings.

```
// dart program to read from csv file
import 'dart:io';

void main() {
  // open file
  File file = File('test.csv');
  // read file
  String contents = file.readAsStringSync();
  // split file using new line
  List<String> lines = contents.split('\n');
  // print file
  print('-----');
  for (var line in lines) {
    print(line);
  }
}
```

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Read Only Part Of File

You can read only part of file using **substring()** method. Here is an example to read only first 10 characters of file. Make sure that you have a file named **test.txt** in the same directory of your dart program.

```
Welcome to test.txt file
This is a test file.
```

```
// dart program to read from file
import 'dart:io';

void main() {
  // open file
  File file = new File('test.txt');
  // read only first 10 characters
  String contents = file.readAsStringSync().substring(0, 10);
  // print file
  print(contents);
}
```

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Read File From Specific Directory

To read a file from a specific directory, you need to provide the full path of the file. Here is an example to read file from a specific directory.

```
// dart program to read from file
import 'dart:io';

void main() {
  // open file
  File file = File('C:\\Users\\test.txt');
  // read file
  String contents = file.readAsStringSync();
  // print file
  print(contents);
}
```

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Video

Watch our video on file reading in Dart.