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PHP | unlink() Function

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The unlink() function is an inbuilt function in PHP which is used to delete files. It is similar to UNIX unlink() function. The $filename is sent as a parameter that needs to be deleted and the function returns True on success and false on failure.

Syntax:

```
unlink( $filename, $context )
```

Parameters: This function accepts two parameters as mentioned above and described below:

- **$filename:** It is a mandatory parameter which specifies the filename of the file which has to be deleted.
- **$context:** It is an optional parameter which specifies the context of the file handle which can be used to modify the nature of the stream.

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Errors And Exception:

- The unlink() function generates an E_WARNING level error on failure.
- The web server user must have write permissions to the directory for using the unlink() function.
- The unlink() function returns Boolean False but many times it happens that it returns a non-Boolean value which evaluates to False.

Below programs illustrate the unlink() function in PHP:

Suppose there is a file named as **"gfg.txt"**

Program 1:

PHP

```php
<?php
// PHP program to delete a file named gfg.txt
// using unlink() function

$file_pointer = "gfg.txt";

// Use unlink() function to delete a file
if (!unlink($file_pointer)) {
    echo ("$file_pointer cannot be deleted due to an error");
}
else {
    echo ("$file_pointer has been deleted");
}

?>
```

Output:

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PHP

```php
<?php
// PHP program to delete a file named gfg.txt
// using unlink() function

$file_pointer = fopen('gfg.txt', 'w+');

// writing on a file named gfg.txt
fwrite($file_pointer, 'A computer science portal for geeks!');
fclose($file_pointer);

// Use unlink() function to delete a file
if (!unlink($file_pointer)) {
    echo ("$file_pointer cannot be deleted due to an error");
}
else {
    echo ("$file_pointer has been deleted");
}

?>
```

Output:

```
Warning: unlink() expects parameter 1 to be a valid path, resource
given in C:\xampp\htdocs\server.php on line 12
Resource id #3 cannot be deleted due to an error
```

Reference: http://php.net/manual/en/function.unlink.php

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