Topic 64 - Data Files: Retrieving Data

**What**

* This topic explains how to retrieve (read) data from a file in Python.

**Why**

* **Data Access**: Retrieving data from files is essential when working with stored information, such as reading user inputs, logs, or saved content.

**How**

1. **Opening the File for Reading**  
   To retrieve data from a file, you need to open it in **read mode** ("r"):

python

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with open("greet.txt", "r") as f:

* + **"r"**: This mode opens the file for reading. It’s the default mode for the open() function, so you can omit it if you prefer.

1. **Reading the File's Contents**  
   Once the file is opened, you can use the read() method to read the entire contents of the file:

python

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with open("greet.txt", "r") as f:

text\_of\_file = f.read()

* + **f.read()**: This reads the entire content of the file and stores it in the variable text\_of\_file.

1. **Displaying the Data**  
   After reading the file, you can print the contents:

python

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print(text\_of\_file)

* + This will output:

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Hello, World!

**Things to Remember**

* **Default Read Mode**: The open() function defaults to "r" if no mode is specified, so you can skip "r" in the open() function if you're just reading.
* **Reading the Entire File**: The read() method loads the entire file into memory as a string. For large files, you might need to read line by line or use other methods to avoid memory issues.