Topic 70 - CSV Files: Loading Information into Them (Part 1)

**What**

* This topic covers how to **write to a CSV file** using Python's built-in csv module.
* You can use this method to **create new CSV files** or **overwrite existing ones**.

**How**

1. **Import the CSV Module**  
   The csv module is used for both reading and writing to CSV files. If you haven't already imported it, do so at the beginning of your script:

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import csv

1. **Opening a CSV File for Writing**  
   Use the open() function to open a file in **write mode ("w")**. This mode will either create a new file or overwrite an existing file:

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with open("whatever.csv", "w", newline="") as f:

* + "w" indicates that you're opening the file for **writing**.
  + The newline="" argument is a technical requirement to ensure the CSV file is written correctly (especially on different operating systems). You can ignore the specifics for now but make sure to include it.

1. **What Happens if the File Doesn't Exist**  
   If the specified file doesn't already exist, Python will create it for you when you open it in write mode.
2. **What Happens if the File Exists**  
   If the file already exists, any content currently in the file will be **overwritten** with new data.

**Example Code**

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import csv

# Open (or create) a new CSV file in write mode

with open("whatever.csv", "w", newline="") as f:

writer = csv.writer(f)

# You can write rows of data to the CSV file

writer.writerow(["Year", "Event", "Winner"])

writer.writerow([1995, "Best-Kept Lawn", "None"])

writer.writerow([1999, "Gobstones", "Welch National"])

writer.writerow([2006, "World Cup", "Burkina Faso"])

**Key Points**

* **Opening Files in Write Mode**: Use "w" to open the file in write mode, which will create or overwrite the file.
* **newline=""**: This is needed to prevent extra blank lines from appearing in the CSV file on some systems.
* **Writing Data**: You can use csv.writer(f) to write rows to the file. The writerow() method writes a single row of data.

In the example above, Python will create the file whatever.csv (or overwrite it if it exists) and write the rows of data into it.