Topic 71 - CSV Files: Loading Information into Them (Part 2)

**What**

* This section explains how to create a **CSV writer object** in Python, which is used for writing data to CSV files.
* It also covers the **delimiter** parameter, which allows you to specify what separates values in the CSV file (default is a comma).

**How**

1. **Creating the CSV Writer Object**  
   After opening the CSV file in write mode, you need to create a **CSV writer object** using the csv.writer() function:

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

data\_handler = csv.writer(f)

* + **data\_handler** is a variable name you can use for the writer object. You can choose any valid name for it.
  + **f** is the file handle that refers to the opened CSV file.

1. **Specifying the Delimiter**  
   By default, CSV files use commas (,) to separate values. However, you can change this delimiter to something else if needed. For example, to use a semicolon (;) as the delimiter:

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data\_handler = csv.writer(f, delimiter=";")

You can specify other delimiters as well, such as tabs (\t), pipes (|), or carets (^), depending on your needs.

1. **Writing Data with the CSV Writer**  
   Once you have the data\_handler object, you can use it to write data to the file. For example:

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data\_handler.writerow(["Year", "Event", "Winner"])

data\_handler.writerow([1995, "Best-Kept Lawn", "None"])

data\_handler.writerow([1999, "Gobstones", "Welch National"])

data\_handler.writerow([2006, "World Cup", "Burkina Faso"])

**Example Code**

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import csv

# Open or create a CSV file in write mode

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

# Create a CSV writer object

data\_handler = csv.writer(f, delimiter=",") # You can change delimiter here

# Write data to the CSV file

data\_handler.writerow(["Year", "Event", "Winner"])

data\_handler.writerow([1995, "Best-Kept Lawn", "None"])

data\_handler.writerow([1999, "Gobstones", "Welch National"])

data\_handler.writerow([2006, "World Cup", "Burkina Faso"])

**Key Points**

* **CSV Writer Object**: Use csv.writer(f) to create the writer object that handles writing to the file.
* **Delimiter**: You can specify a custom delimiter (e.g., ;, |, \t), which can be useful when the data uses a different separator than a comma. The default is a comma (,).
* **Writing Rows**: Use writerow() to write individual rows of data.

By using this approach, you'll have better control over how your data is formatted and separated within the CSV file.