

File Management in C

Part - 1

FAQ

1. What are the three common modes in which a text file can be opened?
read (r), write (w) and append (a).
2. What is a file pointer?
A file pointer is tool used to point to files in a C programme. All the read/write operations that involve files take a file pointer argument that tells the programme which file to read from or write to.
3. Why is it necessary to have an fopen function call before any operations on a file?
The programme gains access to a file through the fopen function. After a successful call to the fopen function, the file pointer variable points to the file, and we could use this file pointer variable for further operations on this file.
4. How can a programme check if a given file exists on the disk, before it tries to read data from the file?
By checking the value returned by fopen function. fopen returns a NULL pointer if the file did not exist on the disk.
5. What is the basic function that is used to output data to a text file?
putc function. Other functions like fprintf call putc internally, as the output to text files happen one character at a time.
6. How do we know that we have read all the content in a file?
By checking for the 'end-of-file' character. The functions like getc return an end-of-file character when we try to read beyond the last character in the file.