





Files

- A "file" is a collection of data on disk

 managed by the user and the operating system
 permanent
- A "file name" is how the user and OS know the file
- follows OS naming rules (DOS: 8.3)
- We'll review the files used in compiling
- We'll review keyboard I/O
- We'll look at using text files in a C program
- First we'll look at data files

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Opening A File

- "Opening" a file: making a connection between the operating system (file name) and the C program (file variable)
 – library function fopen
 - specify "r" (read, input) or "w" (write, output)
- NB String "r", not char 'r' !
 Files must be opened before they can
 be used
- Files stdin/stdout (used by scanf/printf) are automatically opened & connected to the keyboard and display



Closing A File

Usually done only once in a program
Usually done near end of program
Closing an output file is essential, or data may be lost! *FILE *infilep;* /*file variable*/ *infilep = fopen ("Student_Data", "r");*.../*process the file */
.../*when completely done with the file:*/
fclose (infilep);

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Four Essential Functions for Text I/O

•fopen and fclosed: already discussed

•fscanf: works just like scanf, but 1st parameter is a file variable

status = fscanf (filepi, "%....", &var, ...);
/* fscanf returns EOF on end of file */

•fprintf: works just printf, but 1st parameter is a file variable

fprintf (filepo, "%....", var, ...);

•File must already be open before before fscanf or fprinf is used!

Building Applications with Files

•With fopen, fclose, fprintf, and fscanf you can write lots of useful programs involving files

•Many errors and exceptions can arise when using files

-A robust program must handle errors

Lecture packet has a few examples

-not necessarily complete

See textbook for more examples

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File Copy Example

/* Problem: copy an input file to an output file */
/* Technique: loop, copying one char at a time until EOF*/
/* files must already be open before this*/
status = fscanf (infilep, "%c", &ch);
while (status != EOF) {
 fprintf (outfilep, "%c", ch);
 status = fscanf (infilep, "%c", &ch);
 }
printf ("File copied.\n");

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fclose (infilep) ; fclose (outfilep) ;







