

CS306: Introduction to Perl

Ch. 8: Files and Data

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Opening and Closing Files

- `open(filehandle, mode, filename)` or `open(filehandle, filename_with_mode)`
- `open(FH, "<filename.txt");`
- `open(OUT, ">results.txt");`
- `open(LOG, ">>program.log")` or die "Failed";
- `close LOG;`

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Reading Filehandles

- Scalar context...
- `$nextline = <FH>;`
- ```
while (<FH>) {
 print $_;
}
```

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## Reading with <>

- ```
while (<>) {  
    print $_;  
}
```
- <> reads from STDIN if the program was invoked with no parameters.
- <> reads from *file1*, *file2*, etc... if the program is invoked with params *prog.pl file1 file2 file3*

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Reading in List Context

- open IN, "<somefile.txt";
my @lines = <IN>;
close IN;

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Writing to Files

- open OUT, ">results.txt";
print OUT "Some output now.\n";
- open IN, "file1.txt";
open OUT, ">file2.txt";
while (<IN>) {
 print OUT \$_;
}

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Write Buffering

- Some OSes (but not ActiveState Perl on Windows) will buffer until the EOL char is received
- Special variable \$| (dollar-pipe) is the buffer disable flag.
\$| = 1; # now anything printed will be output
immediately

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