

Programming techniques

Week 9 - Binary File

Text file

➤ To open a text file:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <fstream>
using namespace std;

int main () {
    ofstream fout;
    fout.open ("FileToWrite.txt");
    // do something on the file
    fout.close();
    return 0;
}
```

Working with files

- In C++, we use the following streams
 - fstream: to open for reading and writing
 - ifstream: default is for reading (ios::in)
 - ofstream: default is for writing (ios::out)
- Syntax:
f.open(filename, mode);

The modes for file

- Modes:
 - `ios::in` open to read
 - `ios::out` open to write
 - `ios::binary` open a binary file (default: text)
 - `ios::ate` starting from the end of file
 - `ios::app` open to append (write mode only)
 - `ios::trunc` delete the old file and overwrite
- Close file when finishes:
`f.close();`

Status of a file

- To check the status of a file
 - **good()**: check if the stream is ready for reading or writing?
 - **bad()**: if the reading or writing was fail, this flag is turned on
 - **fail()**: similar to bad(), but it also checks the format, i.e. we need to read an integer number but facing a character..
 - **eof()**: the file cursor is at the end of the file

The get and put cursor of a stream

- In the **ifstream**, the **get** cursor is at the position of the next element to be read
- In the **ofstream**, the **put** cursor is at the position to write the next element
- Some operations on these 2 cursors:
 - **tellg()**: tell the current position of the **get** cursor
 - **tellp()**: tell the current position of the **put** cursor
 - **seekg(position)**: move the **get** cursor to the **position**
 - **seekp(position)**: move the **put** cursor to the **position**

get/put file cursor

➤ **seekg(offset, direction)**

➤ **seekp(offset, direction)**

Move the cursor offset steps based on the direction.

➤ **Direction:**

➤ **ios::beg**: from the beginning of the stream

➤ **ios::cur**: from the current position

➤ **ios::end**: from the end of the stream

Binary file

- Open a binary file
 - Similar to a text file but with the mode **ios::binary**
 - Read and write to a binary file:
 - **write(mem_block, size)**
 - **read(mem_block, size)**
- mem_block:** a pointer to an array of bytes
size: the number of bytes to read/write