

Princeton University

COS 217: Introduction to Programming Systems

C Text File Handling

Opening a Text File for Writing

```
#include <stdio.h>
FILE *psFile;
psFile = fopen("filename", "w");
```

Open *filename* for writing.

Return the address of a FILE structure (or NULL).

Note: stdout and stderr are predefined variables of type FILE*

Writing Data to a Text File

Character:

```
iStatus = fputc(iChar, psFile);
iStatus = putc(iChar, psFile);
iStatus = putchar(iChar);
```

Write *iChar* to *psFile* (or stdout). Return *iChar* (or EOF).

String:

```
iStatus = fputs(pcString, psFile); /* Omits '\0' */
iStatus = puts(pcString);          /* Replaces '\0' with '\n' */
```

Write *pcString* to *psFile* (or stdout). Return a non-negative number (or EOF).

Formatted data:

```
iStatus = fprintf(psFile, "%d", i);
iStatus = printf("%d", i);
```

Convert *i* to a sequence of digit characters. Write those digit characters to *psFile* (or stdout). Return the number of digit characters written (or EOF).

See Section 22.3 of the King book for fprintf() conversion specification for each data type.

Opening a Text File for Reading

```
#include <stdio.h>
FILE *psFile;
psFile = fopen("filename", "r");
```

Open *filename* for reading. Return a pointer to a FILE structure (or NULL).
Note: `stdin` is a predefined variable of type FILE*.

Reading Data from a Text File

Character:

```
iChar = fgetc(psFile);
iChar = getc(psFile);
iChar = getchar();
```

Read a character from `psFile` (or `stdin`). Return the character (or EOF).

Line:

```
pcStatus = fgets(pcString, iBufferSize, psFile);
/* Appends '\0' */
pcStatus = gets(pcString);
/* Replaces '\n' with '\0' */
/* Dangerous: May corrupt memory */
```

Read a line from `psFile` (or `stdin`) into the memory at address `pcString`. Return `pcString` (or NULL).

Formatted data:

```
iStatus = fscanf(psFile, "%d", &i);
iStatus = scanf("%d", &i);
```

Skip over leading white space characters. Read a sequence of digit characters from `psFile` (or `stdin`), stopping at the first non-digit character. Convert the sequence of digit characters to an integer. Assign the integer to memory at address `&i`. Return the number of values read (or EOF).

See Section 22.3 of the King book for `fscanf()` conversion specifications for each data type.

Closing a Text File

```
iStatus = fclose(psFile);
```

Close `psFile`, and return 0 (or EOF).

Copyright © 2008 by Robert M. Dondero, Jr.