Chandra X-ray Center

AHELP for CIAO 3.4 **fopen** Context: slangrtl

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Synopsis

Open a file

Syntax

```
File_Type fopen (String_Type f, String_Type m)
```

Description

The fopen function opens a file f according to the mode string m. Allowed values for m are:

```
"r"    Read only
"w"    Write only
"a"    Append
"r+"   Reading and writing at the beginning of the file.
"w+"   Reading and writing.  The file is created if it does not
         exist; otherwise, it is truncated.
"a+"   Reading and writing at the end of the file.  The file is created
         if it does not already exist.
```

In addition, the mode string can also include the letter 'b' as the last character to indicate that the file is to be opened in binary mode.

Upon success, fopen a File_Type object which is meant to be used in other operations that require an open file. Upon failure, the function returns NULL.

Example

The following function opens a file in append mode and writes a string to it:

```
define append_string_to_file (file, str)
{
   variable fp = fopen (file, "a");
   if (fp == NULL) verror ("%s could not be opened", file);
   () = fputs (string, fp);
   () = fclose (fp);
}
```

Note that the return values from fputs and fclose are ignored.

There is no need to explicitly close a file opened with fopen. If the returned File_Type object goes out of scope, S–Lang will automatically close the file. However, explicitly closing a file after use is recommended.

See Also

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clearerr, close, fclose, fdopen, feof, ferror, fflush, fgets, fgetslines, fileno, fprintf, fputs, fread, fseek, ftell, fwrite, isatty, mkdir, open, pclose, popen, printf, system

See Also