PERL OPEN FUNCTION

Description

This function opens a file using the specified file handle. The file handle may be an expression, the resulting value is used as the handle. If no filename is specified a variable with the same name as the file handle used *this should be a scalar variable with a string value referring to the filename*. The special file name '-' refers to STDIN and '>-' refers to STDOUT.

Syntax

Following is the simple syntax for this function −

```
open FILEHANDLE, EXPR, LIST

open FILEHANDLE, EXPR

open FILEHANDLE
```

Return Value

This function returns 0 on failure and 1 on success.

Example

Following is the syntax to open file.txt in read-only mode. Here less than < sign indicates that file has to be opend in read-only mode.

```
open(DATA, "<file.txt");
```

Here DATA is the file handle which will be used to read the file. Here is the example which will open a file and will print its content over the screen.

```
#!/usr/bin/perl

open(DATA, "<file.txt");

while(<DATA>)
{
   print "$_";
}
```

Following is the syntax to open file.txt in writing mode. Here less than > sign indicates that file has to be opend in writing mode.

```
open(DATA, ">file.txt");
```

This example actually truncates *empties* the file before opening it for writing, which may not be the desired effect. If you want to open a file for reading and writing, you can put a plus sign before the > or < characters.

For example, to open a file for updating without truncating it −

```
open(DATA, "+<file.txt");
```

To truncate the file first −

```
open DATA, "+>file.txt" or die "Couldn't open file file.txt, $!";
```

You can open a file in append mode. In this mode writing point will be set to the end of the file.

```perl
open(DATA,">>file.txt") || die "Couldn't open file file.txt, $!";
```

A double >> opens the file for appending, placing the file pointer at the end, so that you can immediately start appending information. However, you can.t read from it unless you also place a plus sign in front of it −

```perl
open(DATA,"+>>file.txt") || die "Couldn't open file file.txt, $!";
```

Following is the table which gives the possible values of different modes.

```
Entities Definition
< or r  Read Only Access
> or w  Creates, Writes, and Truncates
>> or a  Writes, Appends, and Creates
+< or r+ Reads and Writes
+> or w+ Reads, Writes, Creates, and Truncates
+>> or a+ Reads, Writes, Appends, and Creates
```

Loading [MathJax]/jax/output/HTML-CSS/jax.js