

Sequential Files

11-3-2003

Opening Discussion

- What did we talk about last class?
- Do you have any questions about the assignment?
- Difficulties understanding the lectures?
- Lab doors and stolen computers. If you are in the lab after hours, keep the doors closed and make sure they close and lock when you leave.

Review of Last Class

- Last class you should have done an introduction to the use of file streams.
- Using these, you can write to and read from multiple files while still being able to get user input.
- The ability to do this converts programs from being helpful novelties to being truly useful tools.

Functions for File Handling

- Last time you looked at `fopen` and `fclose` to get a file ready to work with and tell the operating system you were done with it.
- You also looked at `fprintf` and `fscanf`. These functions do exactly what `printf` and `scanf` do, except they can work with arbitrary file stream.
- `stdin` and `stdout` are streams for standard input and output.

Other functions

- There are quite a few other functions that you can use to work with files. The man pages can give you more information on them.
 - `feof` - tells if you are at the end of the file.
 - `fflush` - "Flushes" a file. This writes buffered contents out.
 - `fgetc` and `fputc` - Get or put a single character.
 - `fgets` and `fputs` - Get or put a string.

Code

- Let's work a bit more with code that plays with a file and see how it might be helpful in a program. We'll write a very simple type of text editor just for fun.

Minute Essay

- Is it clear how you can use files and how they benefit you in your programming?
- Assignment #6 is due tonight at midnight. I will have normal office hours today if anyone wants to come by for assistance.
