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Reading and Writing [Binary Files](#) in C#

Writing Binary Files :

For files with known internal structures, the *BinaryReader* and *BinaryWriter* classes offer streaming functionality that's oriented towards particular [data types](#). The good thing about writing binary files are you cannot read the files by just opening them in the [notepad](#) also binary files can be of very large size. Lets look at the code to create Binary files.

```
private void Button1_Click(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
{
    FileStream fs = File.Create(Server.MapPath("test.dat"));
    BinaryWriter bw = new BinaryWriter(fs);

    int x = 10;
    decimal d = 3.234M;
    string str = "Hello World";

    bw.Write(x);
    bw.Write(d);
    bw.Write(str);

    bw.Close();
    fs.Close();
}
```

Okay now lets see what's happening in the code:

1. First we made the *FileStream* object but in this case we are writing the .dat file which means the data file.
2. We created an object of the *BinaryWriter* class.
3. Later we declared three variables of type [int](#), decimal and string.
4. Finally we wrote the three variables in the binary file.

If you go and see the file and try to open the file in notepad you will only see some strange characters. In other words you won't be able to see the text.

Reading Binary Files :

Lets see how we can read the Binary files.

```
private void Button1_Click(object sender, System.EventArgs e)
{
    FileStream fs = File.OpenRead(Server.MapPath("test.dat"));
    BinaryReader br = new BinaryReader(fs);

    Response.Write(br.ReadInt32());
    Response.Write(br.ReadDecimal());
    Response.Write(br.ReadString());

    br.Close();
    fs.Close();
}
```

As you can see the Reading code for Binary Files is also very simple. If you have noticed the code is a bit different from which we saw earlier for reading Text files. Here we are extracting the data types that we wrote in the binary file. We use *ReadInt32()* method to read the integer out from the binary file. We use *ReadDecimal()* to read the decimal values from the binary file and so on.

Refer these links for [Reading and Writing Text Files](#) and [XML File operations](#).

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