2025-05-16

# FileDisplayer

## Description

### Purpose

This project is designed to teach you how to manipulate files and exceptions. It reinforces your understanding of class input/output operations on files and forces you to be creative with a limited toolbox.

### Challenge

#### In short

Develop a static class to perform simple operations on files: display its content, display one of its lines, display it with truncation, and display words surrounding a particular word. A bonus (for more experienced programmers) asks to compute the winner of a race using data shared in a [comma-separated values](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comma-separated_values) file.

#### In more details

Your goal is to design and implement a static TextFileHelper class containing 5 methods (the fifth one being optional):

1. A Display method that takes a string as an argument and displays the content of the file located at the corresponding path if it exists, and an error message otherwise.
2. A DisplayN method that takes a string and an int, and displays the line corresponding to the int argument from the file located at the corresponding path if it exists (with a line number before), and an error message otherwise.
3. A DisplayT method that takes a string and an int, and displays the file located at the corresponding path “truncated” at the character number given by the int argument if the file exists, and an error message otherwise.
4. A DisplayW method that takes two string arguments, called path and word. If the file at the corresponding path exists, then for every line in the file that contains word, the method should display word, and the words immediately before and after, if there are any.
5. (optional) A DisplayMaxCSV method that takes a string argument containing the path of a .csv (comma-separated value) file containing values organized as follows:

* Index,First Name,Last Name,Lap 1, Lap 2, Lap 3  
  1,Shelby,Terrell,78,80,82  
  2,Phillip,Summers,76,82,91  
  3,Kristine,Travis,78,82,83  
  4,Marty,Gave,67,73,72  
  5,Harley,Test,78,91,72
* and displays the first and last name of the contestant with the best time, adding their results from the three laps.

| ⚠ Warning |
| --- |
| You are allowed to use only StreamReader’s ReadLine and constructor, StreamWriter’s WriteLine and Write as well as their constructors, and the usual Console, char, string (including for example Substring or Split) and array methods, conditionals, etc. **In particular, *do not* use the Linq library.** AppDomain, Path and File methods can be used as in class or in the example below. |

### Submission

Start by downloading [this project](https:/princomp.github.io/code/projects/FileDisplayer.zip) to help you getting started. Please, follow our [guideline on project submission](https:/princomp.github.io/projects/submission).

### Example

Here is an example of a Program.cs Main method:

﻿using System;  
using System.IO;  
  
class Program  
{  
 static void Main()  
 {  
 /\*  
 \* We first create three  
 \* string variables where  
 \* our three demo files  
 \* are located.  
 \*/  
 string directoryPath = AppDomain  
 .CurrentDomain  
 .BaseDirectory;  
 string ex0 = Path.Combine(directoryPath, "ex0.txt");  
 string ex1 = Path.Combine(directoryPath, "ex1.txt");  
 string ex2 = Path.Combine(directoryPath, "ex2.csv");  
  
 // Testing the "Display" Method:  
 Console.WriteLine("\*\*\*\*\*\n\* Testing Display\n\*\*\*\*\*");  
 FileDisplayer.Display(ex0);  
 // Testing the "DisplayN" method  
 Console.WriteLine("\*\*\*\*\*\n\* Testing DisplayN\n\*\*\*\*\*");  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayN(ex0, 1);  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayN(ex0, 3);  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayN(ex0, 10);  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayN(ex0, 0);  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayN(ex0, -10);  
 // Testing the "DisplayT" method  
 Console.WriteLine(  
 "\*\*\*\*\*\n\* Testing DisplayT (1/2)\n\*\*\*\*\*"  
 );  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayT(ex0, 20);  
 Console.WriteLine(  
 "\*\*\*\*\*\n\* Testing DisplayT (2/2)\n\*\*\*\*\*"  
 );  
  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayT(ex1, 5);  
 // Testing the "DisplayW" method  
 Console.WriteLine(  
 "\*\*\*\*\*\n\* Testing DisplayW (1/2)\n\*\*\*\*\*"  
 );  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayW(ex0, "line");  
  
 Console.WriteLine(  
 "\*\*\*\*\*\n\* Testing DisplayW (2/2)\n\*\*\*\*\*"  
 );  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayW(ex1, "short");  
 // Testing the "DisplayWinnerCSV" method  
  
 Console.WriteLine(  
 "\*\*\*\*\*\n\* Testing DisplayWinnerCSV (Optional)\n\*\*\*\*\*"  
 );  
 FileDisplayer.DisplayWinnerCSV(ex2);  
 }  
}

[*(Download this code)*](https:/princomp.github.io/code/projects/FileDisplayer.zip)

Executing it with the properly implemented FileDisplayer missing methods should give something along the lines of:

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Testing Display  
\*\*\*\*\*  
This is the first demo file. It contains a long first line that will not wrap nicely on some display.  
It also contains another line that contains the word line also.  
It will be used to test our methods.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Testing DisplayN  
\*\*\*\*\*  
Line 1: "This is the first demo file. It contains a long first line that will not wrap nicely on some display."  
Line 3: "It will be used to test our methods."  
End of file was reached before reaching line number 10.  
The line number should be strictly greater than 0.  
The line number should be strictly greater than 0.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Testing DisplayT (1/2)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
This is the first de  
mo file. It contains  
 a long first line t  
hat will not wrap ni  
cely on some display  
.  
It also contains ano  
ther line that conta  
ins the word line al  
so.  
It will be used to t  
est our methods.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Testing DisplayT (2/2)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
A ver  
y sho  
rt  
demo   
file.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Testing DisplayW (1/2)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
first line that  
another line that  
word line also.  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Testing DisplayW (2/2)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
very short  
\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Testing DisplayWinnerCSV (Optional)  
\*\*\*\*\*  
The winner is Marty Gave.

Note that it is ok if you cannot reproduce this output *exactly*.

### Bonuses

* (easy) If the file doesn’t exist, handle exceptions gracefully.
* (medium) Write the DisplayWinnerCSV method.
* (hard) Make DisplayW accommodate punctuation signs (,, ., :, etc.).

### Submission

Please, follow our [guideline on project submission](https:/princomp.github.io/projects/submission). In particular, make sure you write your name and the date in a delimited comment at the beginning of your file.

## Solution

A possible solution is shared [in this archive](https:/princomp.github.io/code/projects/FileDisplayerSolution.zip)