

Programming 3 Advanced

Streams, Filesystem, Serialization

Tomasz Herman

Faculty of Mathematics and Information Science
Warsaw University of Technology

Lecture 10, 8 grudnia 2024



- 1 Streams and IO
- 2 Interacting with a filesystem
- 3 Serialization



Streams architecture

Stream abstract base class for reading and writing bytes

Backing store streams provide access to underlying data storage

Decorator streams wrap other streams, transforming the data

Stream adapters wrap the stream in a class with a specialized methods

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/standard/io/#streams>



Stream operations

Streams involve three operations:

- Reading
- Writing
- Seeking

Checking capabilities:

```
1 using Stream stream = new FileStream("lorem.txt",  
2                                     FileMode.Open);  
3  
4 Console.WriteLine($"Can read: {stream.CanRead}");  
5 Console.WriteLine($"Can write: {stream.CanWrite}");  
6 Console.WriteLine($"Can Seek: {stream.CanSeek}");
```



Stream

Reading byte by byte

```
1 using Stream stream = new FileStream("lorem.txt",
2                                     FileMode.Open);
3
4 int charRead;
5 while ((charRead = stream.ReadByte()) != -1)
6 {
7     Console.WriteLine(charRead);
8 }
```



Stream

Reading into buffer

```
1 using Stream stream = new FileStream("lorem.txt",
2                                     FileMode.Open);
3
4 byte[] buffer = new byte[256];
5 int read;
6 while ((read = stream.Read(buffer, 0, buffer.Length)) > 0)
7 {
8     Console.WriteLine($"Read {read} bytes");
9 }
```



Stream

Writing byte by byte

```
1 using Stream stream = new FileStream("lorem.txt",  
2                                     FileMode.Create);  
3  
4 for (byte c = (byte)'a'; c < 'z'; c++)  
5 {  
6     stream.WriteByte(c);  
7 }
```



Stream

Writing from buffer

```
1 using Stream stream = new FileStream("lorem.txt",
2                                     FileMode.Create);
3
4 byte[] buffer = new byte[256];
5 for (int i = byte.MinValue; i <= byte.MaxValue; i++)
6 {
7     buffer[i - byte.MinValue] = (byte)i;
8 }
9 stream.Write(buffer, 0, buffer.Length);
```



Stream

Seeking

```
1 using Stream stream = new FileStream("lorem.txt",  
2                                     FileMode.Open);  
3 stream.Position = 0;  
4 stream.Position = stream.Length;  
5 stream.Seek(offset: 10, SeekOrigin.Begin);  
6 stream.Seek(offset: -10, SeekOrigin.End);  
7 stream.Seek(offset: -10, SeekOrigin.Current);
```



Façade Provides a simplified interface

Adapter Converts one interface to another so that it matches what the client is expecting

Decorator Dynamically adds responsibility to the interface by wrapping the original code



Backing Store Streams

FileStream: Files

MemoryStream: In-memory byte array buffer

PipeStream: Pipes (IPC communication)

NetworkStream: Sockets (IPC communication)

Flushing

The `Flush` method forces any internally buffered data to be written immediately to the backing store. `Flush` is called automatically when a stream is closed (or disposed).



FileStream

```
1 // Façade methods:
2 FileStream fs1 = File.Create("file1.txt");
3 FileStream fs2 = File.OpenRead("file2.txt");
4 FileStream fs3 = File.OpenWrite("file3.txt");
5 FileStream fs4 = File.Open("file4.txt",
6     FileMode.OpenOrCreate, FileAccess.ReadWrite);
7 // Directly creating a FileStream:
8 FileStream fs5 = new FileStream("file5.txt",
9     FileMode.OpenOrCreate, FileAccess.ReadWrite);
```

FileMode and FileAccess

FileMode: CreateNew, Create, Open, OpenOrCreate, Truncate, Append

FileAccess: Read, Write, ReadWrite

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/fundamentals/runtime-libraries/system-io-filestream>

FileStream

FileMode and FileAccess

FileMode:

`CreateNew` Throws exception if file exists

`Create` Truncates if file exists

`Open` Throws exception if file doesn't exist

`OpenOrCreate`

`Truncate` Throws exception if file doesn't exist

`Append` Opens at the end of file

FileAccess:

`Read`

`Write`

`ReadWrite`



File

Other façade methods

Reads an entire file into memory:

`File.ReadAllText` returns a string

`File.ReadAllLines` returns an array of strings

`File.ReadAllBytes` returns an array of bytes

Lazily reads a file:

`File.ReadLines` returns an `IEnumerable<string>`

Write an entire file:

`File.WriteAllText`

`File.WriteAllLines`

`File.WriteAllBytes`

`File.AppendAllText`



MemoryStream

```
1 using Stream stream = new FileStream("test.txt",
2     FileMode.Create);
3 var ms = new MemoryStream();
4 stream.CopyTo(ms);
```

FileMode and FileAccess

FileMode: CreateNew, Create, Open, OpenOrCreate, Truncate, Append

FileAccess: Read, Write, ReadWrite

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.memorystream?view=net-8.0>



Pipes

PipeStream provides a simple means by which one process can communicate with another through the operating system's pipes protocol.

PipeStream an abstract class with four concrete subtypes:

AnonymousPipeServerStream and **AnonymousPipeClientStream** used for communication between parent and children processes

NamedPipeServerStream and **NamedPipeClientStream** used for communication between processes through 'name'

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/standard/io/pipe-operations>



PipeStream

Named Pipe Server

Server Process:

```
1 using var pipe = new NamedPipeServerStream("p3_pipe");
2 pipe.WaitForConnection();
3
4 using var fs = File.OpenRead("lorem.txt");
5 byte[] buffer = new byte[BufferSize];
6 int read;
7 while ((read = fs.Read(buffer, 0, BufferSize)) > 0)
8 {
9     pipe.Write(buffer, 0, read);
10 }
```



PipeStream

Named Pipe Client

Client Process:

```
1 using var pipe = new NamedPipeClientStream("p3_pipe");
2 pipe.Connect();
3
4 using var fs = File.OpenWrite("lorem.txt");
5 byte[] buffer = new byte[BufferSize];
6 int read;
7 while ((read = pipe.Read(buffer, 0, BufferSize)) > 0)
8 {
9     fs.Write(buffer, 0, read);
10 }
```



Buffering Stream

`BufferedStream` Adds buffering capabilities to a stream

Compression Streams

`DeflateStream`

`GZipStream`

`BrotliStream` Better compression ratio, slower compression

Cryptography Stream

`CryptoStream` Adds encryption/decryption to a stream



BufferedStream

```
1 // Write 100K bytes to a file:
2 File.WriteAllBytes("file.bin", new byte [100000]);
3
4 using FileStream fs = File.OpenRead("file.bin");
5 // Add 20k bytes buffering
6 using BufferedStream bs = new BufferedStream(fs, 20000);
7
8 bs.ReadByte();
9 Console.WriteLine(fs.Position); // 20000
```



Compressing

```
1 using FileStream fsIn = File.OpenRead("file.txt");
2 using FileStream fsOut = File.Create("file.txt.gz");
3 using var ds = new GZipStream(fsOut,
4                               CompressionMode.Compress);
5
6 byte[] buffer = new byte[4096];
7 int read;
8
9 while ((read = fsIn.Read(buffer, 0, buffer.Length)) > 0)
10 {
11     ds.Write(buffer, 0, read);
12 }
```



Decompressing

```
1 using var fsIn = File.OpenRead("file.txt.gz");
2 using var ds = new GZipStream(fsIn,
3                               CompressionMode.Decompress);
4 using var fsOut = File.Create("file.txt");
5
6 byte[] buffer = new byte[4096];
7 int read;
8
9 while ((read = ds.Read(buffer, 0, buffer.Length)) > 0)
10 {
11     fsOut.Write(buffer, 0, read);
12 }
```



Stream Adapters

Text Adapters adapts stream to work with string and character data

Binary Adapters adapts stream to work with primitive types such as int, bool, string, and float

Xml Adapters adapts stream to work with reading/writing xml

Adapters

An adapter wraps a stream, just like a decorator. Unlike a decorator, however, an adapter is not itself a stream; it typically hides the byte-oriented methods completely.



Text Adapters

Text Adapters

`TextReader` and `TextWriter` abstract base classes

`StreamReader` and `StreamWriter` translates the stream's bytes into characters or strings

`StringReader` and `StringWriter` uses in-memory strings

StreamReader

```
https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.streamreader?view=net-8.0
```

StreamWriter

```
https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.streamwriter?view=net-8.0
```


StreamReader

```
1 using FileStream fs = File.OpenRead("lorem.txt");
2 using StreamReader sr = new StreamReader(fs);
3
4 while (sr.ReadLine() is { } line)
5 {
6     Console.WriteLine(line);
7 }
```



StreamWriter

```
1 using FileStream fs = File.OpenWrite("fizzbuzz.txt");
2 using StreamWriter sw = new StreamWriter(fs);
3
4 for (int i = 1; i <= 100; i++)
5 {
6     sw.Write($"{i} : ");
7     if (i % 3 == 0 && i % 5 == 0)
8         sw.WriteLine("FizzBuzz");
9     else if (i % 3 == 0)
10        sw.WriteLine("Fizz");
11    else if (i % 5 == 0)
12        sw.WriteLine("Buzz");
13    else
14        sw.WriteLine(i);
15 }
```



Binary Adapters

BinaryReader and **BinaryWriter** Converts primitive data types to binary values

BinaryReader

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.binaryreader?view=net-8.0>

BinaryWriter

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.binarywriter?view=net-9.0>



BinaryReader

```
1 using FileStream fs = File.OpenRead("player.bin");
2 using BinaryReader br = new BinaryReader(fs);
3
4 string name = br.ReadString();
5 int health = br.ReadInt32();
6 long experience = br.ReadInt64();
7 long money = br.ReadInt64();
8 float posX = br.ReadSingle();
9 float posY = br.ReadSingle();
10
11 Player player = new Player(name, health, experience,
12     money, new Vector2(posX, posY));
13 Console.WriteLine(player);
14
15
16 public record Player(string Name, int Health,
17     long Experience, long Money, Vector2 Position);
```



BinaryWriter

```
1 using FileStream fs = File.OpenWrite("player.bin");
2 using BinaryWriter bw = new BinaryWriter(fs);
3
4 Player player = new Player("Bob", 100, 2500,
5     10, new Vector2(48.5f, 32.5f));
6
7 bw.Write(player.Name);
8 bw.Write(player.Health);
9 bw.Write(player.Experience);
10 bw.Write(player.Money);
11 bw.Write(player.Position.X);
12 bw.Write(player.Position.Y);
13
14
15 public record Player(string Name, int Health,
16     long Experience, long Money, Vector2 Position);
```



Working with Zip files

```
1 ZipFile.CreateFromDirectory(".", "../output.zip");
2 ZipFile.ExtractToDirectory("../output.zip", "../output");
3
4 using ZipArchive zip = ZipFile.Open("../output.zip",
5     ZipArchiveMode.Read);
6 foreach (ZipArchiveEntry entry in zip.Entries)
7     Console.WriteLine(
8         $"{entry.FullName,-32} size: {entry.Length}");
```



Files

- File (static class)
- FileInfo

Directories

- Directory (static class)
- DirectoryInfo

Partitions

- DriveInfo



File class

Checking if exists: Exists

Manipulating file: Delete, Copy, Move, Replace, CreateSymbolicLink

Checking/setting attributes: GetAttributes, SetAttributes

Encrypting/decrypting (Windows only): Encrypt, Decrypt

Checking/updating timestamps: GetCreationTime, GetLastAccessTime, GetLastWriteTime, SetCreationTime, SetLastAccessTime, SetLastWriteTime

Checking/updating permissions: GetUnixFileMode, SetUnixFileMode

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.file?view=net-8.0>



Directory class

Similar method set as in File: Exists, Delete, Move, etc.

Creating new directory: CreateDirectory

Getting content: GetFiles, GetDirectories, GetFileSystemEntries,

Getting content (lazy evaluation): EnumerateFiles, EnumerateDirectories, EnumerateFileSystemEntries

Working with current directory: GetCurrentDirectory, SetCurrentDirectory

Utilities: GetParent, GetDirectoryRoot

Getting Unix mount points: GetLogicalDrives

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.directory?view=net-8.0>



Path class

Manipulating paths: IsPathRooted, GetPathRoot, GetDirectoryName, GetFileName, GetFullPath, **Combine**

Working with extensions: HasExtension, GetExtension, GetFileNameWithoutExtension, ChangeExtension

Utils: DirectorySeparatorChar, AltDirectorySeparatorChar, PathSeparator, VolumeSeparatorChar, GetInvalidPathChars, GetInvalidFileNameChars

Working with temporary files: GetTempPath, GetRandomFileName, GetTempFileName

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.path?view=net-8.0>



FileInfo and DirectoryInfo

If you are performing multiple operations on the same file/directory, it can be more efficient to use FileInfo/DirectoryInfo instance methods instead of the corresponding static methods of the File/Directory class.

FileInfo documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.fileinfo?view=net-8.0>

DirectoryInfo documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.directoryinfo?view=net-8.0>



DriveInfo

```
1 DriveInfo c = new DriveInfo("C");
2 long totalSize = c.TotalSize;
3 long freeBytes = c.TotalFreeSpace;
4 long availableBytes = c.AvailableFreeSpace;
5 Console.WriteLine($"Total size: {totalSize}");
6 Console.WriteLine($"Free size: {freeBytes}");
7 Console.WriteLine($"Available size: {availableBytes}");
8
9 foreach (DriveInfo d in DriveInfo.GetDrives())
10 {
11     Console.WriteLine(d.Name);
12 }
```

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.driveinfo?view=net-8.0>

Filesystem events

```
1 using var watcher = new FileSystemWatcher(path, filter);
2 watcher.Created += OnCreated;
3 watcher.Changed += OnChanged;
4 watcher.Deleted += OnDeleted;
5 watcher.Renamed += OnRenamed;
6 watcher.Error += OnError;
7 watcher.IncludeSubdirectories = includeSubDirs;
8 watcher.EnableRaisingEvents = true;
9 Console.WriteLine("Press enter to end");
10 Console.ReadLine();
```

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/api/system.io.filesystemwatcher?view=net-9.0>



Serialization and deserialization are typically used to do the following:

- Transmit objects across a network or application boundary
- Store representations of objects within a file or database



Serialization engines

- Xml serializer
- Json serializer
- Data contract serializer (Xml and Json)
- Binary serializer (obsolete)

Binary serialization

The BinaryFormatter type is dangerous and is not recommended for data processing:

<https://aka.ms/binaryformatter>



XmlSerializer

Serialization

```
1 var weatherForecast = new WeatherForecast
2 {
3     // ...
4 };
5
6 var stringWriter = new StringWriter();
7 var xmlSerializer = new XmlSerializer(
8     typeof(WeatherForecast));
9 xmlSerializer.Serialize(stringWriter, weatherForecast);
10
11 Console.WriteLine(stringWriter.ToString());
```

Serialization

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/standard/serialization/how-to-serialize-an-object>

XmlSerializer

Deserialization

```
1 string xml = ""
2         // ...
3         """;
4
5 var stringReader = new StringReader(xml);
6 var xmlSerializer = new XmlSerializer(
7     typeof(WeatherForecast));
8 WeatherForecast? wf = (WeatherForecast?)xmlSerializer
9     .Deserialize(stringReader);
10
11 Console.WriteLine($"Date: {wf?.Date}");
12 Console.WriteLine($"Summary: {wf?.Summary}");
```

Deserialization

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/standard/serialization/how-to-deserialize-an-object>

XmlSerializer

Attributes

Example

```
1 public class Person
2 {
3     [XmlElement("FirstName")]
4     public string Name;
5     [XmlIgnore()]
6     public int Age;
7 }
```

Documentation

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/standard/serialization/controlling-xml-serialization-using-attributes>

JsonSerializer

Serialization

```
1 var weatherForecast = new WeatherForecast
2 {
3     // ...
4 };
5
6 var options = new JsonSerializerOptions
7     { WriteIndented = true };
8 string jsonString = JsonSerializer
9     .Serialize(weatherForecast, options);
```

Serialization

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/standard/serialization/system-text-json/how-to>



JsonSerializer

Deserialization

```
1  string jsonString =
2      ""
3      {
4          // ...
5      }
6      "";
7
8  WeatherForecast? wf =
9      JsonSerializer.Deserialize<WeatherForecast>(jsonString);
10
11 Console.WriteLine($"Date: {wf?.Date}");
12 Console.WriteLine($"Summary: {wf?.Summary}");
```

Deserialization

<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dotnet/standard/serialization/system-text-json/deserialization>

Example

```
1 public class Person
2 {
3     [JsonPropertyName("FirstName")]
4     public string Name { get; set; }
5     [JsonInclude()]
6     public DateTime DateOfBirth;
7     [JsonIgnore()]
8     public int Age { get; set; }
9 }
```

