

To write data to a file

1. create a file that the data will be written to. This can be a text file. It will be a blank file. Upload it to the server.
 - a. Upload by either using an ftp program, or by
 - b. Going to DOS (start-programs-accessories-command prompt), typing ftp name of server, logging in, typing cd public_html (to get to the directory of web files), and saying put filename <enter>
2. in order to write data to this file, you need to change the permissions on the file. Usually, files on the server can only be written to by whoever has the account on the sever. You want to change this, so that anyone can write to this file, so their data will be added to it.
 - a. Your ftp program may allow you to do this – look for options about changing permissions, usually by right-clicking on the name of the uploaded file. Or,
 - b. go into DOS (start-programs-accessories-command prompt). Telnet to the server by saying telnet name of server. Log in, and type cd public_html. Next, to change the permissions on the file, type chmod 666 <filename>
3. Now, you need to create the php script to write the data. The name of this script should be the same as that specified after “action=” on the line “<form method=”post” action=”file”> on the form with your questionnaire, where you will collect the data you want to write to the file.
4. All php files start with <?
5. you’ll want to get the IP address of your participants, in case you want to do filtering. To do this, type:
`$address = getenv("REMOTE_ADDR");`
6. next, you need to specify the file that data will be written to (the text file that you changed the permissions of). To do this:
`$filename=”name of file”;`
7. now, you need to open the file. To do this:
`$myfile=@fopen($filename, “a+”) or die(“Couldn’t open file.”);`
8. now you want to specify *what* you want written to the file. To do this:
`$msg=”ip \t $address \t “. $_POST[name of first variable] . “\t “. $_POST[name of second variable] . “\n”;`
(each \t is a tab. If you have many variables to write, you’ll want to put some on separate lines. To insert a new line in the data file, type \n).
9. For clarity, you may want to have several lines of commands, in which variables are written to the file. To do this, you’ll want to *concatenate* (add to the end) more message by:
`$msg .=$_POST[name of variable] . “ \t …”;`
10. now, you want to write all that to the file by:
`@fwrite($myfile, $msg) or die(“Couldn’t write to file.”);`
11. Close the file by
`fclose($myfile);`
12. Either send to a thank you page (with header(Location:address); command) or use php to print a thank you (with echo “thank you message”;