File Input and Output

Overview

- Types of Data Access
- Selecting a Filename
- Processing Data in a Sequential-Access File
- General File I/O Issues

Types of Data Access

Access type	Description
Sequential	Files containing variable-length records.
Random	Files containing fixed-length records.
Binary	Everything else. A file is treated as a sequence of individual bytes.

File Access Overview

1. Select a Filename
2. Assign a File Number
3. Open the File
4. Process the Data
5. Close the File

File Functions and Statements

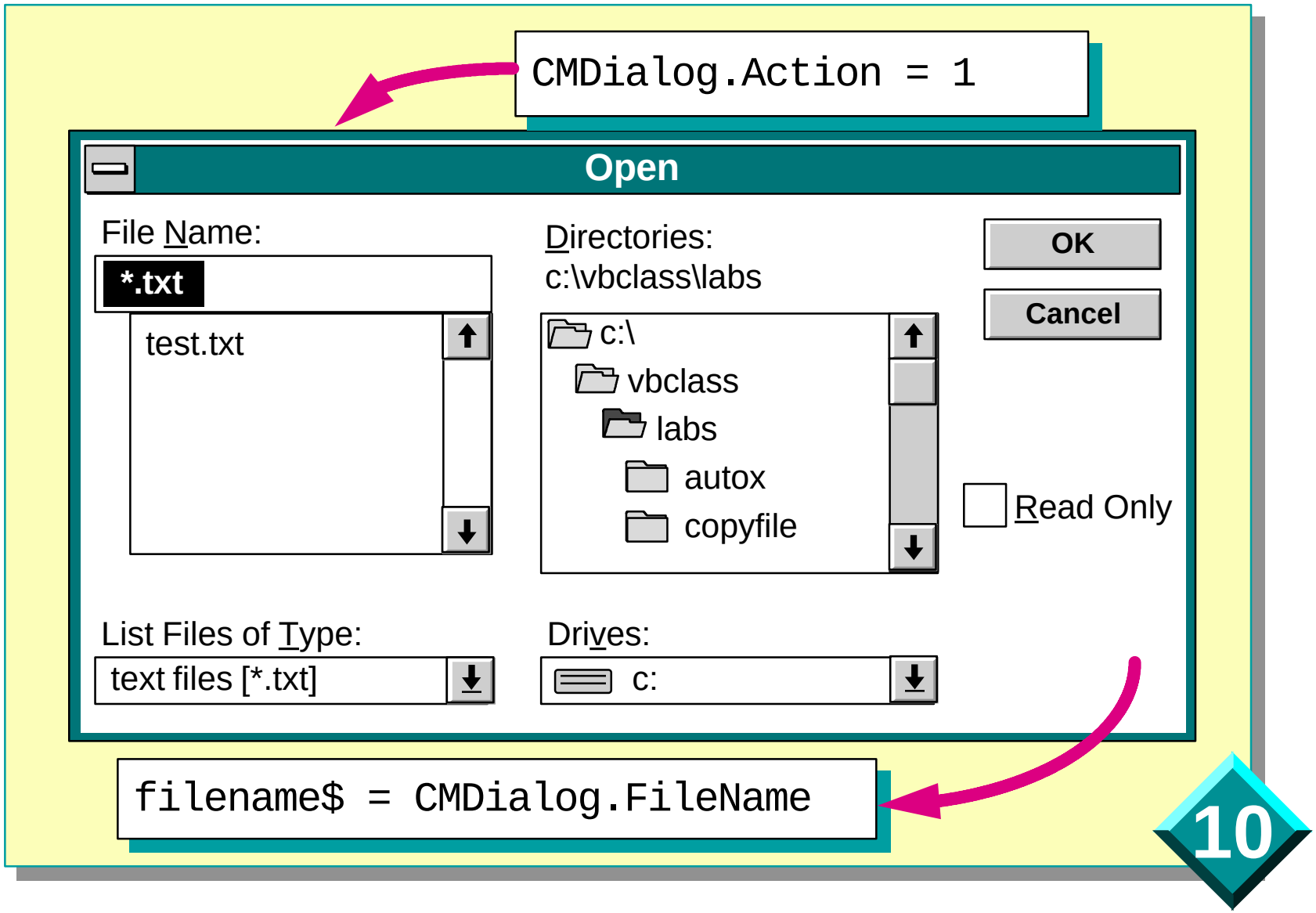
FUNCTIONS:

- File Handle — FreeFile()
- File Size — Len(FileHandle)
- File Location — Seek(FileHandle)
- End of File — EOF(FileHandle)
- Beginning of File — BOF(FileHandle)

STATEMENTS:

- Position File — Seek FileHandle, Position

Selecting a Filename



Open and Close Statements

```
Dim fhandle As Integer
fhandle = FreeFile
Open file$
    [For mode] [Access access]
    As fhandle
    [Len = len]

Close fhandle
```

Example Open Statements

- **Sequential Files:**
  - Open *filename$* For Append As *filehandle$*
  - Open *filename$* For Input As *filehandle$*
  - Open *filename$* For Output As *filehandle$*
- **Binary Files:**
  - Open *filename$* For Binary Access Read As *filehandle$*
- **Random Files:**
  - Open *filename$* For Random Access Read As *filehandle$* Len = *length*

Input and Output Statements

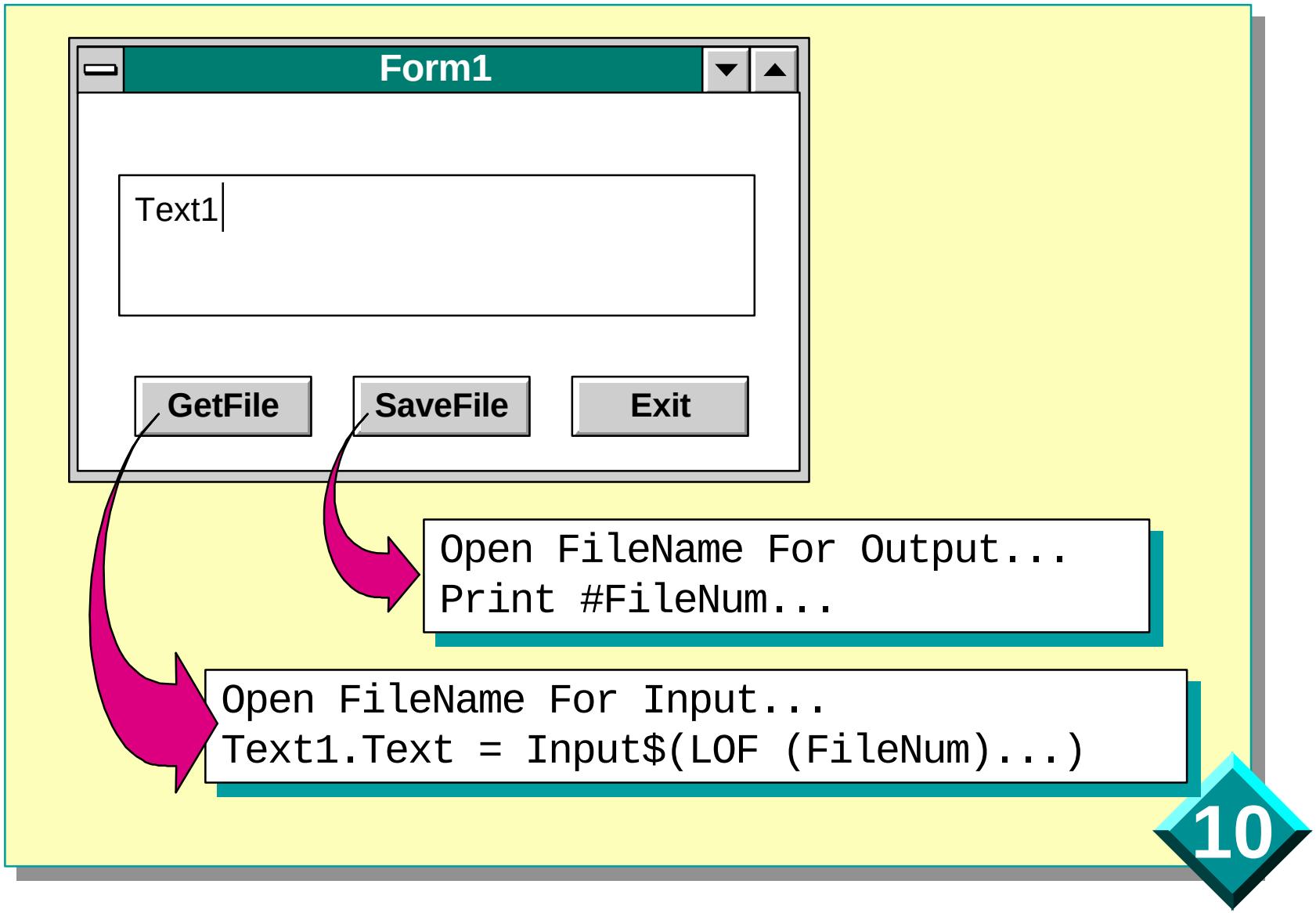
- **To Read an Entire File**

```
Text1.Text = Input$(LOF(fhandle), fhandle)
```

- **To Write to a File**

```
Print #fhandle, Text1.Text
```

A Simple Text Editor



File Management

- **FileCopy**

```
FileCopy sourcefilename$ destfilename$
```

- **Dir$ Function**

```
Match = Dir$(FileSpec$)
```

General File I/O Issues

- Overwrite Existing File?
- Save Changes Before Exit?
- ChDir Statement
- ChDrive Statement

Summary

- Types of Data Access
- Selecting a Filename
- Processing Data in a Sequential-Access File
- General File I/O Issues