

CD-ROM



CD-ROM Access, Data Reading, Streaming, Error Handling, & Optimization

- ▶ What is the CD Good At?
- ▶ What is the CD Bad At?
- ▶ Types of CD-ROM Access
- ▶ Streaming -VS- Normal Data Reading
- ▶ Error Handling
- ▶ Optimizing CD Throughput

What is the CD Good At?

- ▶ Reading a continuous data stream at a constant data rate
 - Single-speed = 75 sectors per second
 - Double-speed = 150 sectors per second

What is the CD Good At? • Reading a continuous data stream

- ▶ Single-Speed = 75 sectors per second
 - 153600 bytes for data (2048-byte) sectors
 - ISO 9660 format data sectors
 - Streaming Video Data
 - 175200 bytes for form 2 (2336-byte) sectors
 - XA-ADPCM Audio Data

What is the CD Good At? • Reading a continuous data stream

- ▶ Double-speed = 150 sectors per second
 - 307200 bytes for data (2048-byte) sectors
 - ISO 9660 format data sectors
 - Streaming Video Data
 - 350400 bytes for form 2 (2336-byte) sectors
 - XA-ADPCM Audio Data

What is the CD Bad At? (Everything else...)

- ▶ Seeking
- ▶ Starting & Stopping

What is the CD Bad At? Seeking

▶ PlayStation CDROM Seek Time

- Average seek time = 250ms ($\frac{1}{4}$ second)
- Some seeks may take more time
- Seek errors can take seconds for recovery

What is the CD Bad At? Starting & Stopping

- ▶ Not Optimized For Stopping & Starting
 - CD drives are designed to read a continuous data stream

Types of CDROM Access

- ▶ ISO 9660
- ▶ High-level functions
- ▶ Low-level functions

Types of CDROM Access • ISO 9660

- ▶ The PlayStation disc is an extended version of the CD-ROM XA format.
 - Combines digital audio & data tracks on same disc
 - Uses ISO 9660 file system

Types of CDROM Access • ISO 9660

▶ ***_96_init***

- What It Does
 - Initializes ISO 9660 file system.
- When To Use It
 - When need to use functions that require ISO 9660 file system
 - ***Load, Exec, & LoadExec***
 - UNIX-style raw i/o functions ***open, read, close***
 - When background CD functions not required
 - CdRead, CdSearchFile, CdReadFile, CdControl, etc.

Types of CDROM Access • ISO 9660

▶ ***_96_remove***

- What It Does
 - Removes ISO 9660 file system.
- When To Use It
 - When ISO 9660 file system no longer needed
 - Before calling ***_96_init***
 - Called by ***ResetCallback***

CDROM Initialization

▶ CdInit

- What It Does
 - Initializes CDROM system
- When To Use It
 - At program initialization

Types of CDROM Access • High-level Functions

- ▶ ***CdSearchFile***
- ▶ ***CdRead***
- ▶ ***CdReadFile***
- ▶ ***CdReadSync* & *CdReadCallback***

Types of CDROM Access • High-level

▶ ***CdSearchFile***

- What It Does
 - Searches the ISO9660 directory to locate the specified file and return the time code position of the beginning of the file, as well as the length of the file.

Types of CDROM Access • High-level

▶ ***CdSearchFile*** Performance Considerations

- Blocks execution of other code until finished.
- Uses ***CdRead*** function internally
- Only caches 1 directory at a time
 - Each time directory changes from the previous ***CdSearchFile*** call, it must seek to root directory, then to each subdirectory.
 - Pauses the disc after reading each directory
 - Must do a seek for each directory

Types of CDROM Access • High Level

► **CdSearchFile** execution chain of events

CdSearchFile("\\DATA\\LEVEL3\\SHIPS\\BATTLESH.DAT", &filedata);	
Searching for...	Actions Required
DATA	Seek to DATA directory Read Data, Pause Disc
LEVEL3	Seek to LEVEL3 directory Read Data, Pause Disc
SHIPS	Seek to SHIPS directory Read Data, Pause Disc
BATTLESH.DAT	Find BATTLESH.DAT Entry In Directory & Return Data
TOTAL: 3 seeks, 3 reads, 3 pauses	

Types of CDROM Access • High-level

▶ ***CdSearchFile*** Alternatives

- Include the timecode position of your files directly into your program at compile time
 - Obtain timecode information from CDGEN.
- Use a lookup file with the name, timecode position, and length of every file, then read this at runtime.
 - Data file can be generated right before creating disc.
 - Locate this file with ***CdSearchFile*** or ***CdReadFile***, then use the information to avoid the need for subsequent calls.

Types of CDRom Access • High-level

▶ ***CdRead***

- What it Does
 - Begins reading the specified number of sectors from the current position on the CD into the specified memory buffer.

Types of CDROM Access • High-level

▶ **CdRead** Performance Considerations

- Non-blocking
 - Read command is issued to hardware, function returns to allow your code to continue execution while the hardware operation is happening.
- Uses CdIPause When Finished
 - Significant delays if reading many small pieces of data
- Uses **CdReadyCallback**
 - Don't install your own routine until read operation finished
- Uses **CdSyncCallback**
 - Don't install your own routine until read operation finished

Types of CDRom Access • High-level

▶ ***CdRead*** Error Detection & Correction

- Performs retries automatically
 - Individual sectors retried up to 8 times
 - Entire operation retried up to 4 times

Types of CDROM Access • High-level

▶ ***CdReadFile***

- What it Does
 - Locates a specific file by name and reads it into memory at the specified address
- Performance Considerations
 - Uses ***CdSearchFile*** & ***CdRead***
- When to use
 - Good for reading long files located in the root directory or perhaps 1 subdirectory level down from the root directory

Types of CDROM Access • High-level

▶ ***CdReadSync*** & ***CdReadCallback***

- *int status = CdReadSync(int mode, char *result);*
- *previousfunc = CdReadCallback(newfunc);*
*int (newfunc *) (int status, char *result)*

Types of CDROM Access • High-level

▶ ***CdReadSync*** & ***CdReadCallback***

- What They Do
 - ***CdReadSync*** waits for the operation initiated by the ***CdRead*** or ***CdReadFile*** to be completed. Returns error & status information.
 - ***CdReadCallback*** executes a specified routine when the ***CdRead*** or ***CdReadFile*** operation is completed. Error & status information passed to specified routine as arguments.

Types of CDROM Access • High-level

▶ ***CdReadSync*** & ***CdReadCallback***

- When to Use
 - After calling either ***CdRead*** or ***CdReadFile***, before calling another CD-related function

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ **CdControl**

- What it Does
 - Sends low-level commands to the CD controller
 - Obtains CD controller status
- How it works
 - Input parameters for command and command-specific data
 - 8-byte Output array returns status & error codes and any returned data

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdControlB***

- What it Does
 - Blocking version of ***CdControl***.
 - No need to use ***CdSync***.
 - ***CdSyncCallback*** still active
- When To Use
 - When no other processing can be done while waiting for CD operation to complete.

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdControlF***

- What it Does
 - No handshake version of ***CdControl***
 - Issues commands to CD controller without any handshaking.
 - Does not return result code
- When To Use
 - Only when you're positive CD isn't already busy

Low-Level CD-ROM Primitive Commands

▶ **CdControl** Primitives

- Initialization
 - CdlReset — Reset CD Controller
 - CdlSetmode — Set transfer speed (single/double-speed), ADPCM & CD-DA playback, & other parameters.
- Error Detection / Status Request
 - CdlNop — Do nothing but return status

Low-Level CD-ROM Primitive Commands

▶ ***CdControl*** Primitives

- Reading
 - CdlReadN — Start data reading, retry on errors
 - CdlReadS — Start data reading, no retry on errors

Low-Level CD-ROM Primitive Commands

▶ **CdControl** Primitives

- Seeking
 - CdlSetloc — Set position for next seek
 - CdlGetlocL — Determine current logical location
 - CdlGetlocP — Determine current physical location
 - CdlSeekL — Move laser to new position (logical)
 - CdlSeekP — Move laser to new position (physical)
 - CdlForward — Fast-forward
 - CdlBackward — Rewind

Low-Level CD-ROM Primitive Commands

▶ ***CdControl*** Primitives

- Stopping
 - CdlPause
 - CdlStandby
 - CdlStop

Low-Level CD-ROM Primitive Commands

▶ **CdControl** Primitives

- CD Digital Audio
 - CdlPlay — Play CD-DA
 - CdlMute — Mute CD-DA sound, continue playback
 - CdlDemute — Restore CD-DA sound
 - CdlSetFilter — Specify XA-ADPCM sound playback channel

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlReadN

- What it Does
 - Low-level command to read from CD, retries if error detected
- When To Use
 - When reading important data & program code
 - When maintaining a constant data rate is not primary concern

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlReadS

- What it Does
 - Low-level command to read from CD, no retry on error detect
- When To Use
 - When constant data rate is more important than data integrity (i.e. when streaming audio and/or video)

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlSetloc

- What it Does
 - Low-level command to set target position used by a command to follow (CdlPlay, CdlReadN, CdlReadS, CdlSeekP, or CdlSeekL)
- When To Use
 - Whenever you need to specify the location of the data you wish to read

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlSeekP & CdlSeekL

- What They Do

- Low-level commands to move laser to position specified using CdlSetloc

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlSeekP & CdlSeekL

- When To Use

- Normally used when pre-seeking to disc location in anticipation of a forthcoming data read to reduce the seek delay when reading actually begins.
- Use CdlSeekL only for reading data sectors, uses sector header to aid seek precision
- Use CdlSeekP for both data sectors and audio sectors without sector headers

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlNop

- What it Does
 - Low-level command to return CD controller status
- When To Use
 - When you need to determine status of on-going operation

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlPause

- What it Does

- Low-level command to pause CD reading.
- Temporarily halts reading and/or playback, leaves head in current position in standby mode.

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlPause

- When To Use
 - Only when no more data reads or seeks are required
 - Avoid using in the middle of a block of reads.
- Performance Considerations
 - Pause/Unpause takes about 200ms or more.
 - Pausing once per second can cut throughput by over 20% (data transfer rate goes from 300kps to 240kps or less)

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlStandby

- What it Does
 - Same as CdlPause except waits with spindle motor still rotating.
- When To Use
 - Avoid using in the middle of a block of reads.

Low-Level CdControl Primitive Commands

▶ CdlStop

- What it Does
 - Same as CdlStandby, except also halts spindle motor.
- When To Use
 - Avoid using in the middle of a block of reads.

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdSync & CdSyncCallback***

- *int status = CdSync(int mode, char *result);*
- *previousfunc = CdSyncCallback(newfunc);*
*int (newfunc *) (int status, char *result)*

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdSync & CdSyncCallback***

- What They Do
 - ***CdSync*** waits for the operation initiated by ***CdControl*** to be completed. Returns error & status information.
 - ***CdSyncCallback*** executes a specified routine when the ***CdControl*** operation is completed. Error & status information passed to specified routine as arguments.
- When To Use
 - After calling a ***CdInit*** or ***CdControl***, and before calling another CD-related function

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdSync & CdSyncCallback***

- The *status* value returned by ***CdSync*** or passed to the routine installed via ***CdSyncCallback*** indicates what happened with the command.
 - CdlComplete
 - Execution of command is completed
 - CdlNoIntr
 - Command is still being executed
 - CdlDiskError
 - An error of some kind occurred.

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdReady & CdReadyCallback***

- *status = CdReady(mode, result);*
- *previousfunc = CdReadyCallback(newfunc);*
int (newfunc)(int status, char *result);*

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdReady & CdReadyCallback***

- What They Do
 - ***CdReady*** either polls or waits for a sector becoming available in the CD controller's sector buffer
 - ***CdReadyCallback*** installs a user-specified routine to be executed when a sector becomes available.
- When To Use
 - Whenever using low-level read data commands, to determine when data must be transferred from sector buffer.

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdReady & CdReadyCallback***

- The *status* value returned by ***CdReady*** or passed to the routine installed via ***CdReadyCallback*** indicates what happened when the sector was read.
 - CdlDataReady
 - Data preparation is complete, data in CD controller sector buffer
 - CdlNoIntr
 - Command is still being executed
 - CdlDiskError
 - An error of some kind occurred.

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ **CdGetSector**

- What it does
 - Transfers sector data from the CD controller buffer to a specified location in RAM.
- When To Use
 - When **CdReady** indicates a sector is available or during your **CdReadyCallback** function.
- Special Considerations
 - Blocks execution until finished, uses high-priority DMA transfer mode

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdDataSync & CdDataCallback***

- *dataready = CdDataSync(mode);*
- *previousfunc = CdDataCallback(newfunc);*
*int (newfunc *)(void);*

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdDataSync & CdDataCallback***

- What They Do
 - ***CdDataSync*** either polls or waits for the DMA transfer of sector data to RAM initiated by ***CdGetSector*** to be completed.
 - ***CdDataCallback*** installs a user-specified routine to be executed when the DMA transfer is completed.

Types of CDROM Access • Low-Level

▶ ***CdDataSync*** & ***CdDataCallback***

- When To Use
 - The ***CdDataSync*** function is essentially is not really necessary since ***CdGetSector*** is blocking function anyway.
 - May go away in library v3.6.
 - Use ***CdDataCallback*** when you must access sector data as quickly as possible after it's transferred to RAM.

High-Level -VS- Low-Level

- ▶ High Level is quicker and easier to code
 - **CdReadFile** locates & reads file in one call.
 - **CdRead** handles all sector-level error correction & retries.
 - **CdSearchFile** easiest way to locate file position.
 - Good choice when reading large data files, or when absolute peak performance not required.
 - Does it really matter if it takes 4 seconds to load a new level instead of 3.75?

High-Level -VS- Low-Level

- ▶ Low level gives better performance.
 - Avoid pausing with ***CdRead***, ***CdReadFile***, & ***CdSearchFile***
 - Avoid excessive seeking with ***CdSearchFile***
- ▶ Allows more efficient, application-specific error detection & correction
 - Retry individual sectors or ignore errors according to importance of the data.

Streaming -VS- Normal Data Reading

- ▶ Streaming is designed for video and/or audio playback directly from CD.
 - Typically uses a ring buffer large enough to contain no more than a second or two of data.
 - Data may be used directly from ring buffer and discarded when finished or copied out for additional use.
- ▶ Multiple types of data may be interleaved together (video, audio, 3D animation data, program code, etc.)

Streaming -VS- Normal Data Reading

- ▶ Most of the streaming library calls are for managing the data buffer, not CD access.
 - ***StSetStream*** sets streaming parameters
 - ***StSetRing*** sets data buffer

Streaming -VS- Normal Data Reading

- ▶ Streaming uses ***CdRead2*** for CD access
 - ***CdRead2*** uses ***CdDataCallback*** and ***CdReadyCallback*** when streaming mode bit set.
 - ***CdRead2*** installs ***StCdInterrupt*** routine to handle data transfers
 - Automatically inserts data into ring buffer specified using Streaming Library calls
 - XA-ADPCM audio is automatically sent to audio subsystem without going through main memory

CDROM Error Handling

- ▶ The return codes from functions ***CdRead***, ***CdReadFile***, and ***CdControl*** is not the CD error status
 - These functions return “command was issued OK” status, not result of the operation.

CDROM Error Handling

- ▶ With ***CdRead*** and ***CdReadFile***, use error status array from ***CdReadSync*** or ***CdReadCallback***.
 - ***CdRead*** retries entire operation up to 4 times before failing and bailing.
 - ***CdRead*** retries individual sectors up to 8 times.

CDROM Error Handling

- ▶ With ***CdRead*** and ***CdReadFile***, use error status array from ***CdReadSync*** or ***CdReadSync*** callback.
 - If you get an error code in the ***CdReadSync*** result array
 - Retry the ***CdRead*** operation a maximum of 4 or 5 times.
 - If still fails, throw up a “disc is dirty or damaged” screen.
 - Offer user chance to save game to memory card.
 - This procedure may be added to global technical standards list

CDROM Error Handling

- ▶ To obtain error information for commands issued using ***CdControl***:
 - Use ***CdReady*** to get error status array for read operations
 - Use ***CdSync*** to get error status for operations such as ***CdControl***(CdISeekP)
 - Do ***CdControl***(CdINop) to get current status of CD.

CDROM Error Handling

- ▶ Using low-level CD access allows you to detect errors on individual sectors.
 - Less overhead for retry.
 - Don't have to retry entire read.
 - With some data, errors may be ignored if cannot afford time to retry.
 - Minor glitches due to errors better than game stopping.
 - Video frames can be thrown out occasionally.
 - Audio may pop or have noise.

CDROM Error Handling

- ▶ The CD is NOT a hard disk.
 - Errors don't always, or even usually, mean that the media is damaged.
 - Soft Errors -VS- Hard Errors.
 - Some errors are because CD controller is still busy with previous function.
 - Always Use ***CDSync***.
 - Most CD commands are non-blocking.
 - Important to make sure previous operations are complete.

CDROM Error Handling

- ▶ Avoid End of Data Seek errors.
 - Seeking to position within last 3 minutes of data can cause laser to get lost.
 - Solutions:
 - Place 3 minutes of data at the end of your disc.
 - Dummy data file.
 - Movie file or CD-DA track.
 - If no seeks are done into middle of data, there's no problem seeking to the start of the data.

CDROM Error Handling

▶ Avoid Dangling Callbacks

- Some CD-related callback functions ARE NOT reset by the ***ResetCallback*** function.
 - ***CdReadyCallback***
 - Reset using ***CdReadyCallback***(0)
 - ***CdSyncCallback***
 - Reset using ***CdSyncCallback***(0)
 - ***CdReadCallback***
 - Reset using ***CdReadCallback***(0)

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Use Data Compression.
- ▶ Avoid Pausing or Stopping the CD.
- ▶ Avoid use of ***CdSearchFile***.

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Avoid use of ***CdRead*** & ***CdReadFile*** for reading many small files at once.
- ▶ Use low-level routines & callback functions to do CD access.
- ▶ Arrange files on your CD to avoid long seeks.

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Place multiple copies of important files at various locations throughout your disc to reduce seek time.
- ▶ Use pre-seek trick.

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Use data compression.
 - Use the MDEC to compress still graphics images.
 - Use lossless Huffman encoding or RLE compression to compress program code and data.
 - Use ADPCM for audio data.

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Avoid pausing or stopping the CD.
 - Combine data & read in big chunks, not little ones.
 - Avoid use of ***CdRead***, ***CdReadFile***, and ***CdSearchFile*** functions, all of which pause the CD.

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Avoid use of ***CdSearchFile***.
 - Slow.
 - Uses 1 seek & 1 CdIPause per directory level.

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Avoid use of ***CdRead*** & ***CdReadFile*** for small files.
 - Uses CdlPause at end of file.
 - Combine multiple smaller files to improve read performance.

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Use low-level routines & callback functions to do CD access.
 - Avoids application blocking.
 - Allows application-specific error checking & correction.
 - Don't retry when errors occur while streaming data.
 - Constant data rate is more important when streaming.

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Arrange Files On Your CD to avoid long seeks.
 - Seeks at outside of disc are faster.
 - Place streaming movie files or audio at inside of disc.
 - You don't seek into the middle of these types of files, so reserve the rest of the disc for data that requires seeking.

Optimizing CD Throughput

▶ Short Seeks Are Faster

- Seeks within a range of +/- 128 revolutions can be done by changing laser angle instead of moving head.
 - Fast seek range is about +/- 2880 sectors at outer perimeter
 - 75 sectors per second
 - Rotation speed 200 RPM at outer perimeter (3.333333 rotations/sec.)
 - $128 \text{ rotations} * (75 / 3.33333) = 2880$

Optimizing CD Throughput

▶ Short Seeks Are Faster

- Seeks within a range of +/- 128 revolutions can be done by changing laser angle instead of moving head.
 - Fast seek range is about +/- 1152 sectors at inner perimeter
 - 75 sectors per second
 - Rotation speed 500 RPM at inner perimeter (8.333333 rotations/sec.)
 - $128 \text{ rotations} * (75 / 8.33333) = 1152$

Optimizing CD Throughput

- ▶ Place multiple copies of important files at various locations throughout your disc to reduce seek time.
 - Very effective if the extra disc space is available.
 - Good for code overlays... not much space required.

Optimizing CD Throughput

► Use Pre-seek Trick.

- At end of previous read, seek to position that precedes next read and/or seek.
- Next read will require minimal seek.
- Avoid need to use CdlPause.
 - Estimate time before next read or seek and seek that much earlier on disc.

The End