Device files Volume Manager

Device Files

- See
 - ⁻ \$ Is -I /dev
 - "c" character special device files
 - 'b' block device files
- Device file represents a hardware device
- Open() and then read(), write() on device files will read/write from the device (if supported)

Device Files

- Major Number and Minor Number
 - The size field in inode is reused as major-minor number field for device files
 - Major number: type of device (identifies the device driver)
 - Minor number: device number of that type (tells the device driver, which device)

Xv6

};

The sys_read()->file_read()->readi() will redirect the read operation to return devsw[ip->major].read(ip, dst, n); where struct devsw { int (*read)(struct inode*, char*, int); int (*write)(struct inode*, char*, int);

Block Device Files

- For "block" devices
 - read() ,write() happen in multiples of "block"
- E.g.
 - /dev/sda1
 - /dev/hda1
 - /dev/nvmep01

Issues with disk partitions

- Use of disk partitions
 - \$ fdisk /dev/sdb # create partitions
 - \$ mkfs -t ext2 /dev/sdb1 # format
 - \$ mount -t ext2 /dev/sdb1 /a/b # mounted on /a/b
- Fixed size
- Cant' easily grow them
 - Without risk of losing file system
- Can't easily shrink them

Logical Volume Mananger (LVM)

- A layer (indirection) between physical partitions (physical volumes) and file system
 - Enables easy grouping, re-grouping, extending, shrinking, ...
- Logical Volume Group:
 - Parallel to a physical disk (but extendible)
- Logical Volume
 - Parallel to a physical partision (but extendible!)





