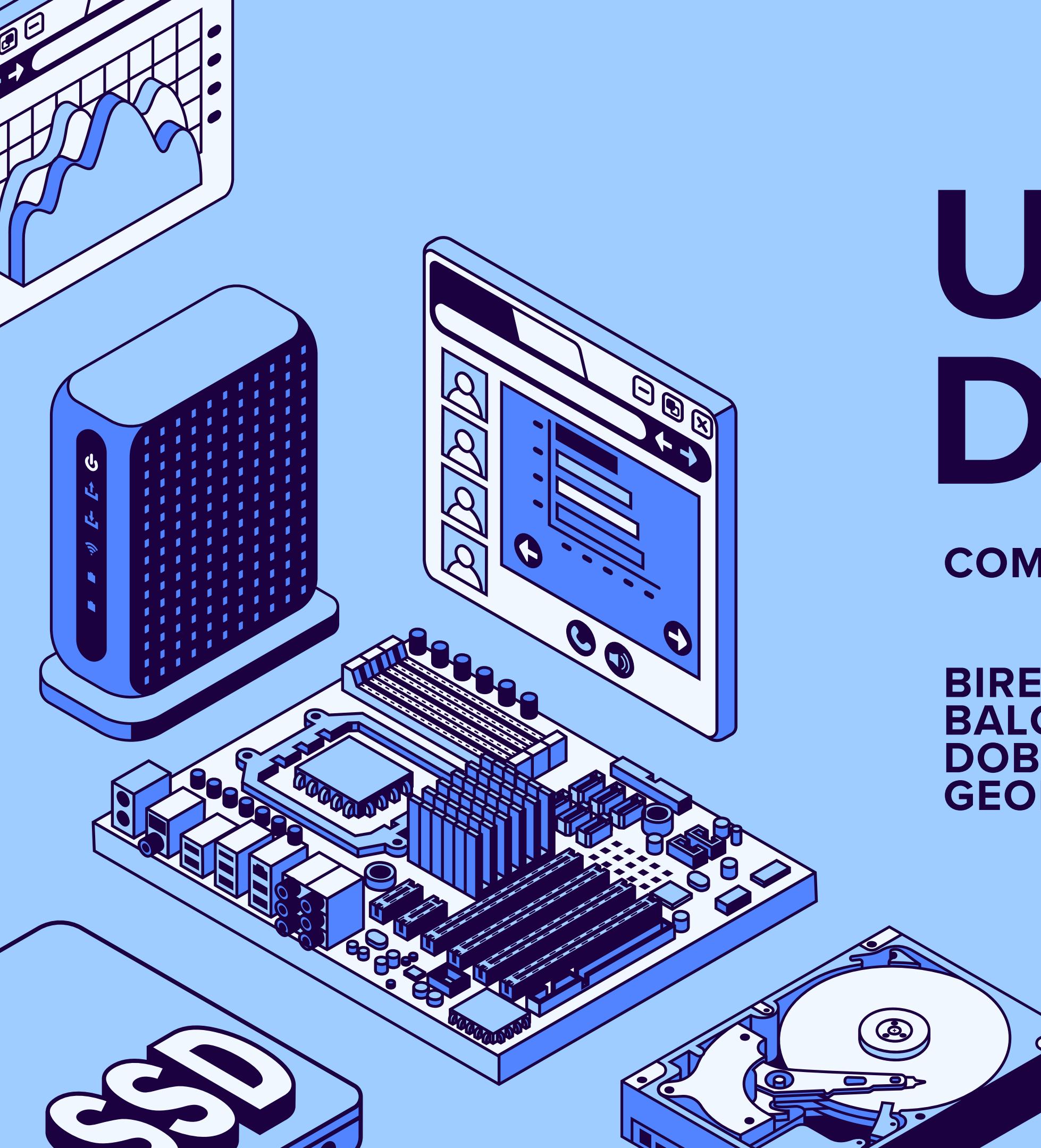


USB Memory Detector

COMPUTER ENGINEER AND TESTING

BIRESCU IONUȚ,
BALC DRAGOS,
DOBRA DARIUS,
GEORGESCU RAREŞ,

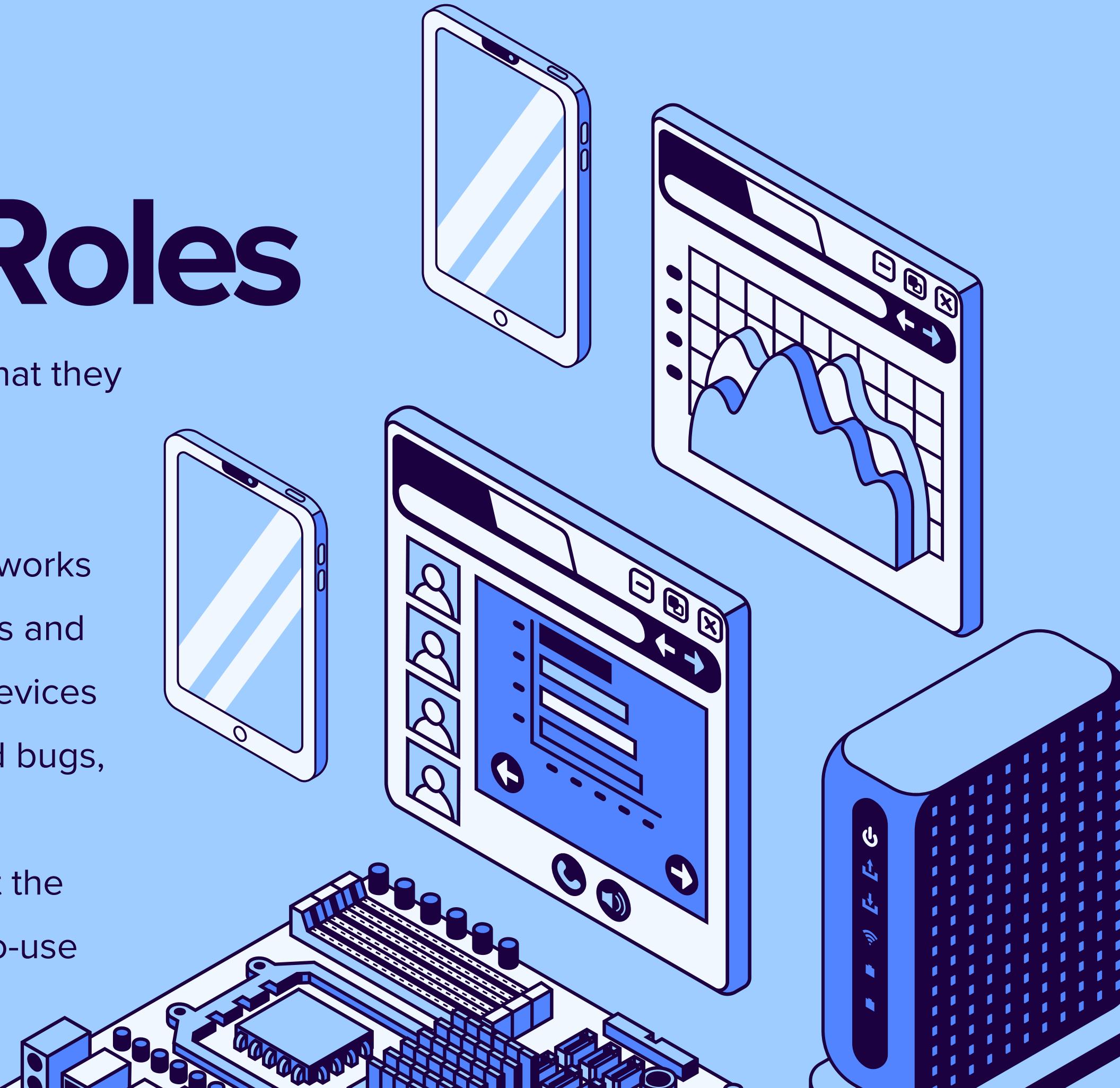
AC, CTI EN, 3RD YEAR



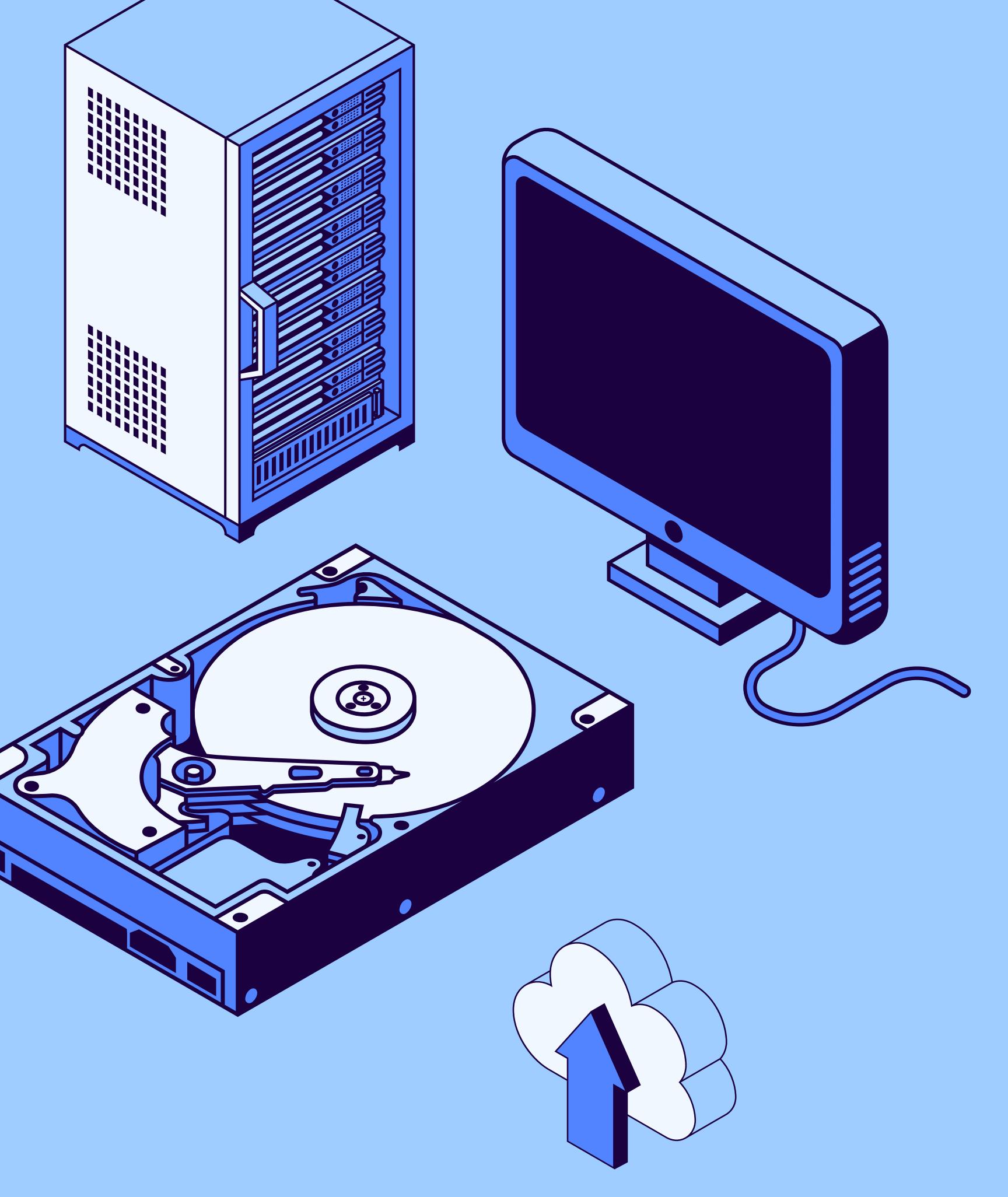
Our Team & Roles

To keep things organized, everyone focused on what they do best:

- Rares – Software Developer - Built the C/C++ application and made sure everything actually works
- Darius – Hardware - Tested different USB sticks and checked how the program behaves with real devices
- Dragos – Tester - Tried to break the app, found bugs, and helped during the live demo
- Ionut – Project Manager & Interface / UX - Kept the team organized and designed a simple, easy-to-use interface



Our Project



The USB Information Tool is a small console program made in C/C++ that checks a USB flash drive when it's plugged into a Windows computer.

It shows useful info like:

- USB device name
- Total storage size
- Free space available
- Basic device details

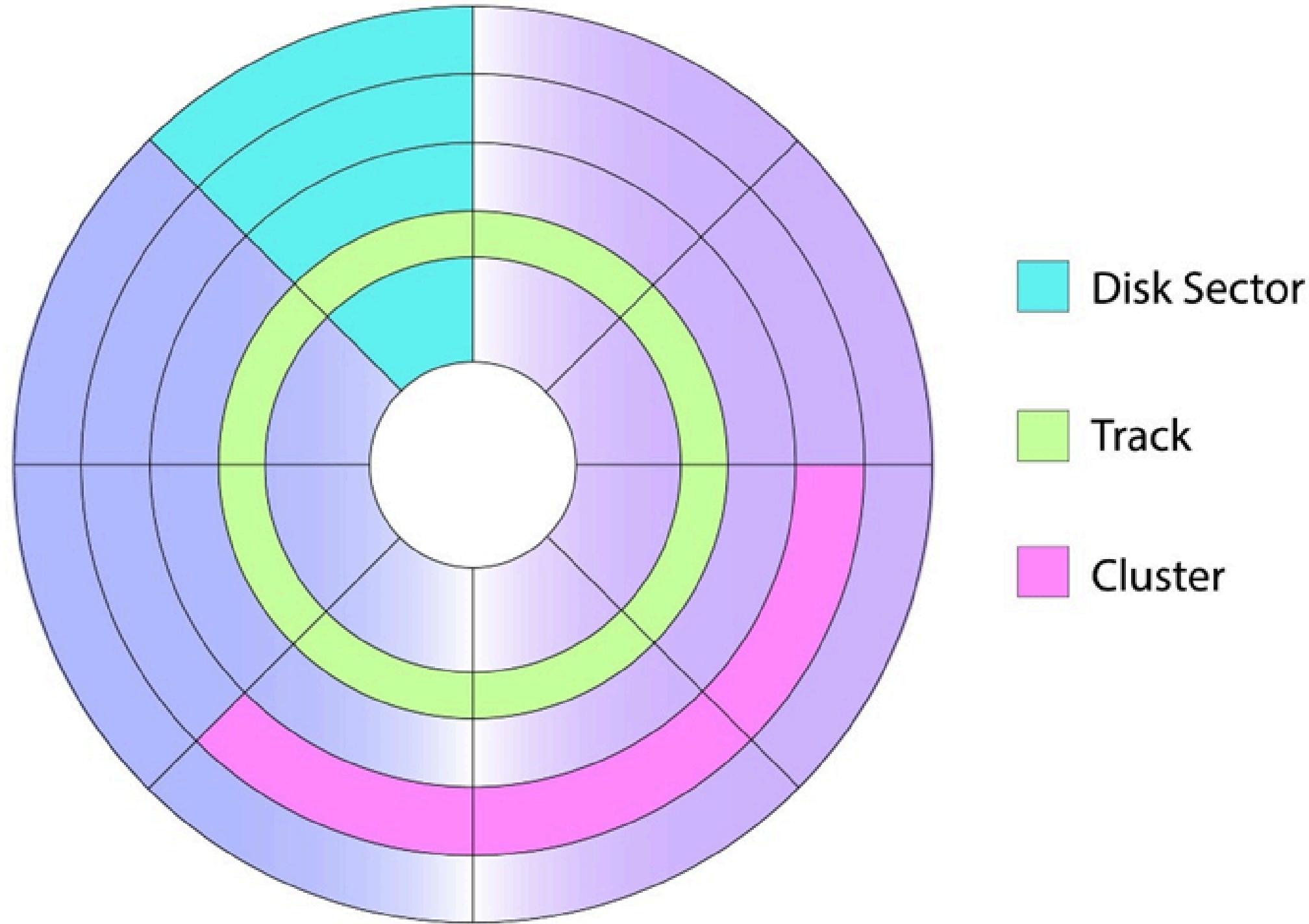
We made this project as a team assignment to learn how USB devices work and how a program can read information from external hardware.

USB Storage Fundamentals

- Sector: Smallest physical unit that can be read or written (512 bytes standard).
- Sectors are addressed sequentially using Logical Block Addressing (LBA).
- Cluster: A logical grouping of sectors used by the FAT32 file system.
- Larger clusters improve speed but increase wasted space (slack space).
- Even a 1 KB file occupies a full cluster, affecting storage efficiency.



DISK DRIVE SECTORS



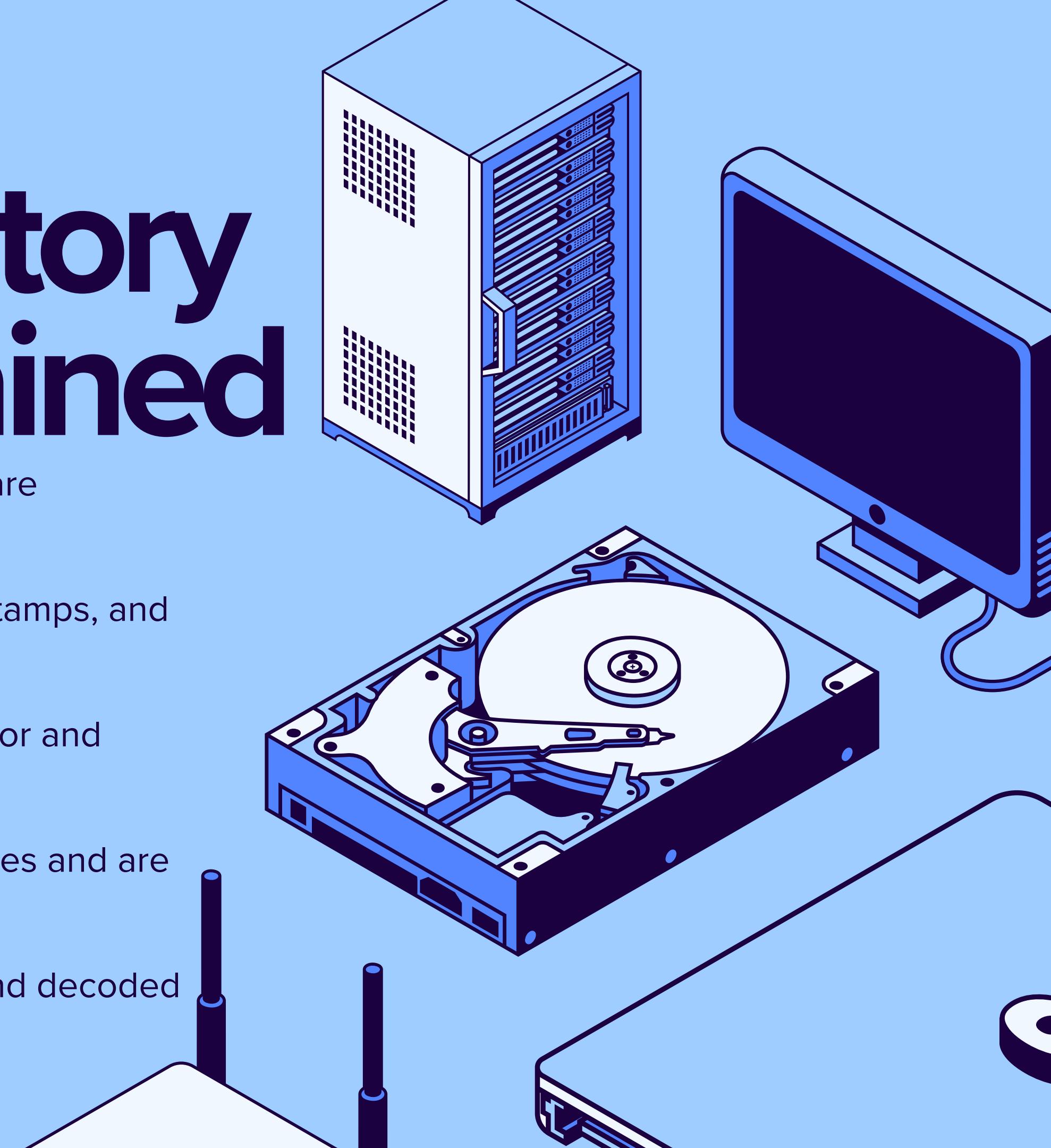


- Boot Sector (Sector 0) initializes the entire file system structure.
- The BIOS Parameter Block (BPB) defines how the USB must be interpreted.
- FAT Region functions as a linked list mapping file cluster chains.
- Multiple FAT copies exist for redundancy and recovery.
- The Data Region stores both directory entries and actual file data.

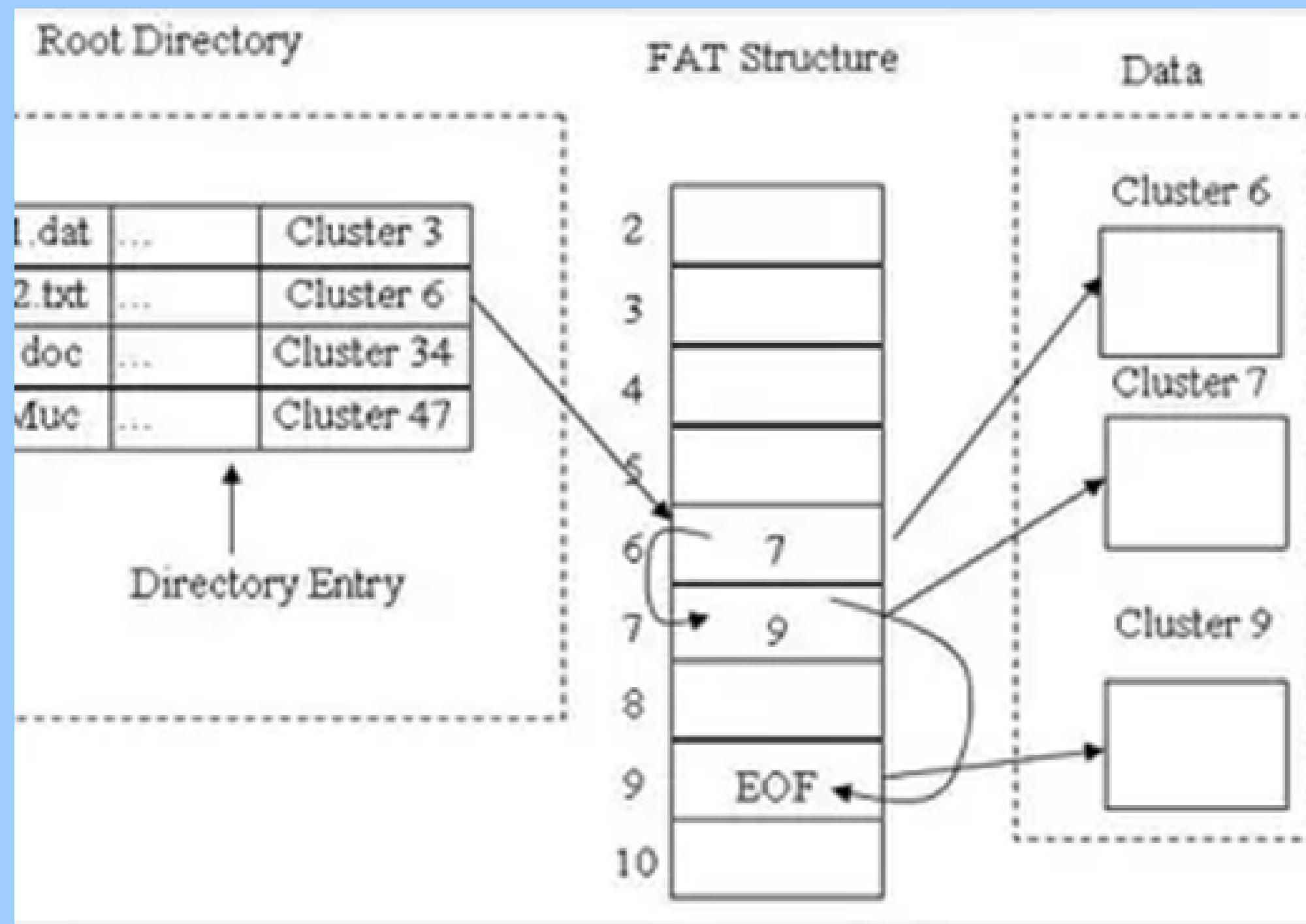
FAT32 File System Architecture

FAT32 Directory Entries Explained

- Each directory entry is exactly 32 bytes for hardware alignment.
- Entries store filename, extension, attributes, timestamps, and size.
- The Attribute byte is a bitmask defining file behavior and visibility.
- Long File Names (0x0F) use multiple chained entries and are skipped.
- Dates and times are compressed to save space and decoded via bit shifts.



Structural diagram of a standard USB formatted with FAT32



Safe USB Cleaning Mechanism

- File deletion does not erase data, only metadata references.
- The filename's first byte is changed to 0xE5 to mark deletion.
- FAT entries for the file's clusters are marked as free (0x00000000).
- Actual data remains until overwritten, enabling file recovery.
- Incorrect deletion can break FAT chains and corrupt the file system.





Rules of Engagement for Safe Cleaning

- System and Hidden files must never be modified or deleted.
- Root directory entries such as '.' and '..' must always be preserved.
- Only known temporary file extensions are eligible for deletion.
- Empty directories may be removed only after validation.
- Strict filtering prevents OS errors and USB corruption.

Resolving technical problems

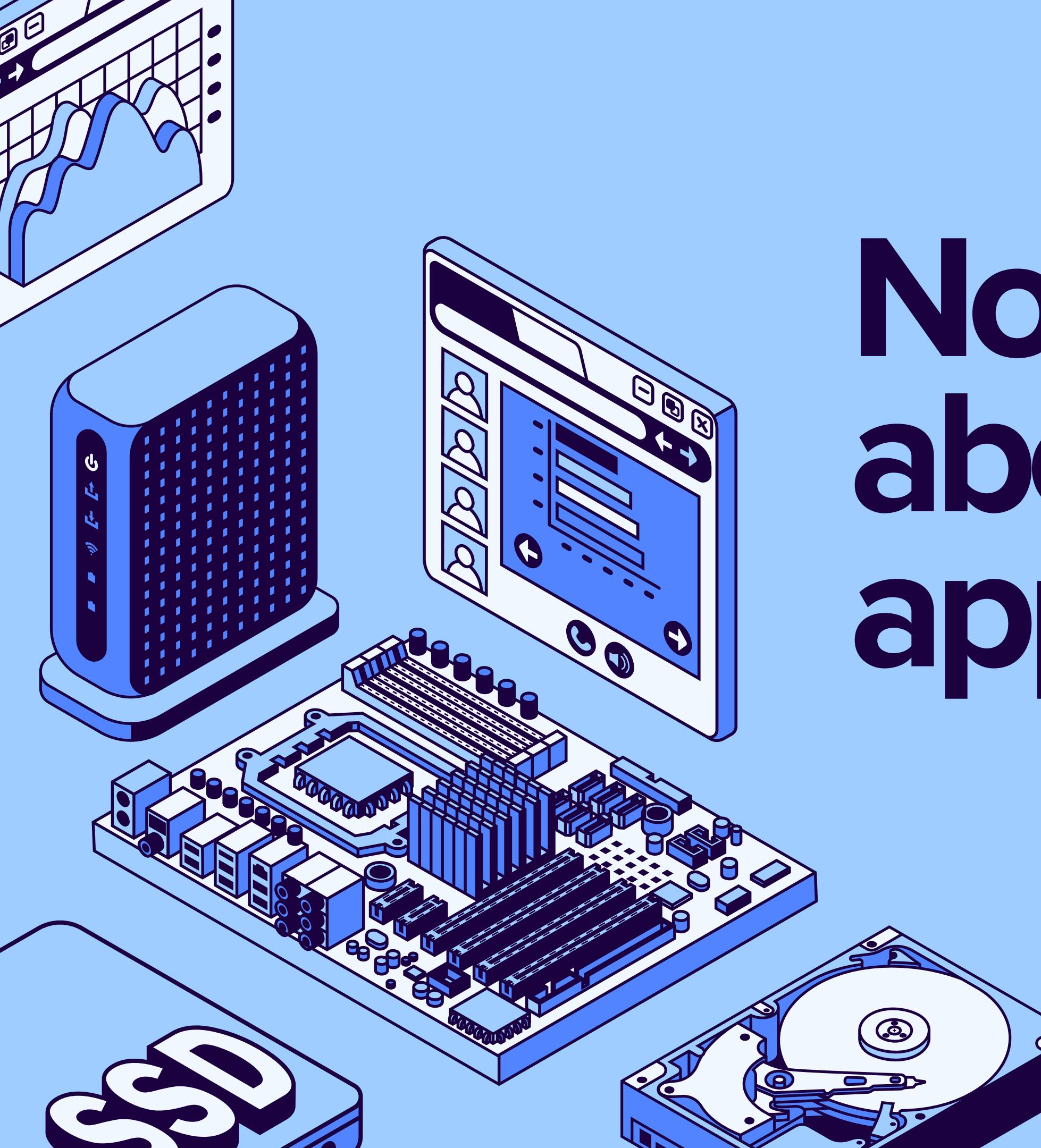


Illustration showing various office equipment: a computer tower, an envelope, a telephone, a keyboard, and a hard drive.

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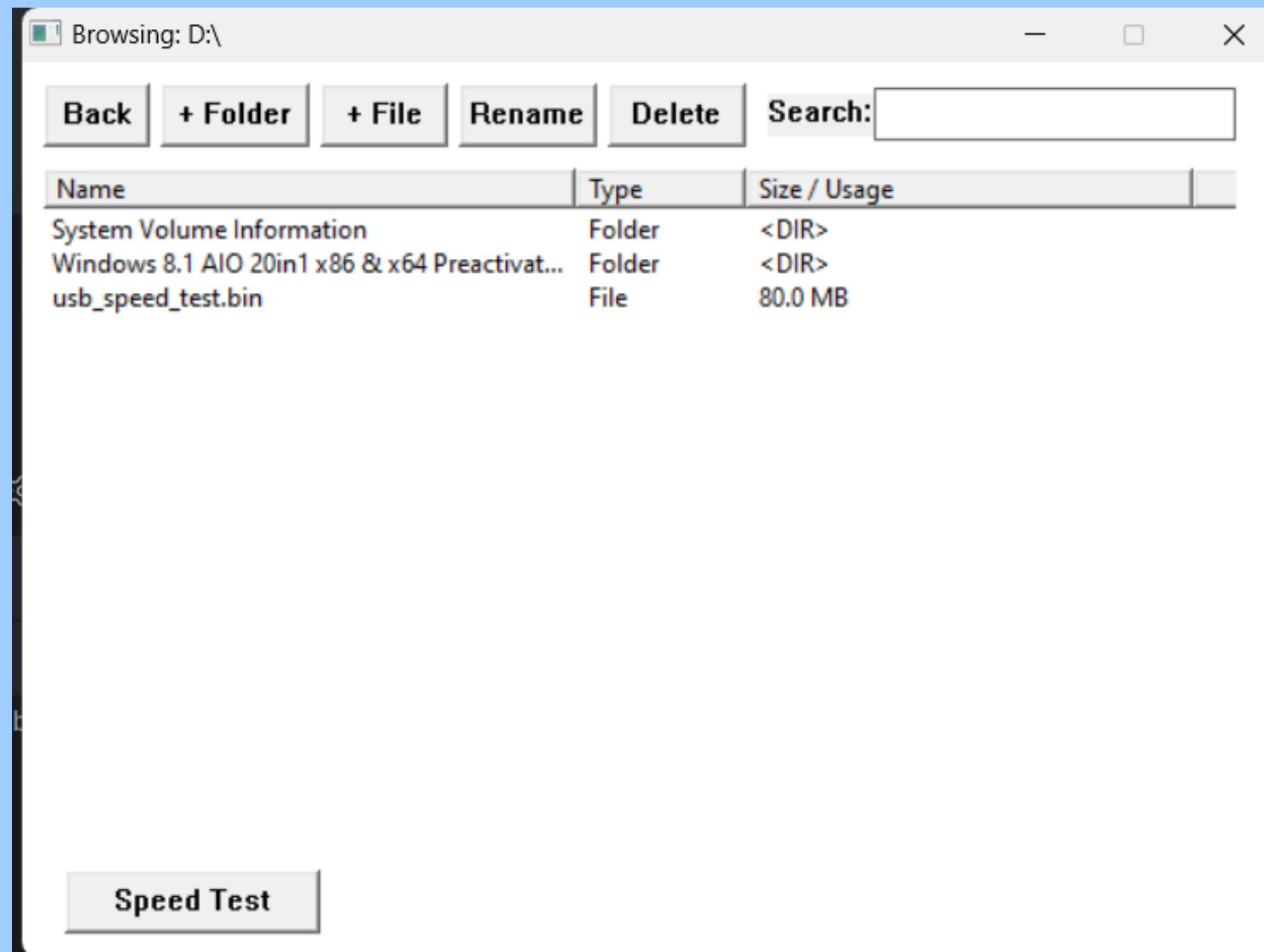
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**Now let's talk
about our
application....**



SSD

Here is the first look



The UI - Developed by Ionuț and Rareș
Speed Test and the functionality of the program - Dragoș



WINDOWS API (WIN32)

- WINDOWS.H – CORE OS, WINDOW MANAGEMENT, MESSAGES
- USER32 – GUI WINDOWS, BUTTONS, MESSAGE LOOP
- GDI32 – INTERNAL GRAPHICS SUPPORT

COMMON CONTROLS

- COMMCTRL.H
- COMCTL32.LIB

USED FOR LISTVIEW (FILE & USB DISPLAY)

- SHELL & SYSTEM
- SHELLEXECUTE (SHELL32) – OPEN FILES
- KERNEL32 – THREADING, SYSTEM CALLS

Libraries and APIs used

Testing and Validation

Testing & Validation

- USB Detection Testing
 - Plug/unplug USB devices → automatic refresh (WM_DEVICECHANGE)
 - Verified correct drive detection and labeling
- File System Operations Testing
 - Create / rename / delete files and folders
 - Manual validation through ListView updates
- Performance Testing
 - USB read/write speed test (background thread)
 - UI remains responsive during testing
- Error & Stability Testing
 - Invalid actions handled with warnings
 - Logging used to track errors and events

**Now time
for a live
demo...**



Thank You

