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3207 Operating Systems

File System Design

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**Introduction**

The goal of this project is to create a “disk” that will store data from files and organize them by directories. This is generally how data is stored on any type of storage on a computer. The file system that I will be modeling my disk after is FAT16. FAT stands for File Allocation Table. The file table holds pointers to the blocks of memory, which is where all the file data is stored. This table is set up as a linked list and any blocks that are associated with the same file will be linked together.

Each FAT entry will contain 3 pieces of data. Those three pieces are:

1. Block Number
2. Next Entry
3. Previous Entry

All of this data will allow my file system to determine which block is associated with each file. The block number will be the pointer to the block of data. The next and previous entries are going to contain the links between the file table entries. This links will allow a file to take up more than one block of data. The FAT entries will each be 4B long. These values will also be able to tell the program if that block is free or not.

Below the FAT is the data blocks. These blocks is where the data inside all the files is located. A block is a way to divided the data between all the files on the system. Each of these blocks are only associated with a single file. In my file system, each block is going to hold 512B of data. The data blocks are going to be organized according to the block numbers going from 0 to Number of Blocks - 1. These FAT blocks are going to be the overhead needed to organize the disk.

The file system is going to organize files into directories so the user can divide the files however they choose. To represent a directory, the file system is going to fill the data blocks that it is associated with pointers to all the files and other directories that are located inside it. In doing this we treat the file exactly like files which makes implementing the file system easier.

Specs of File System:

* Disk Size: 2MB
* Block Size: 512B
* Number of Blocks: 4000
* Max File Size: 32KB
* FAT Table Entries: 4B
* File Header: 16B

Structure of File System

---FAT

| F ----

| F ----

| F ----

…

| F ----

---Blocks

| B ---------------------------------

| B ---------------------------------

| B ---------------------------------

…

| B ---------------------------------

**Definitions**

Block:

A single section of the disk which is 512B long and contains the data inside each file

File Header:

Data that is stored inside a block which points to the data inside the file and some metadata about the file.

FAT Entry:

A pointer to a block of data that is contained inside the file system. Also contains links to other block associated with the same data.

“Disk”:

The file that will be used to simulate a hard drive.

File:

A collection of bytes that are associated with one another.

Directory:

A collection of files and other directories.