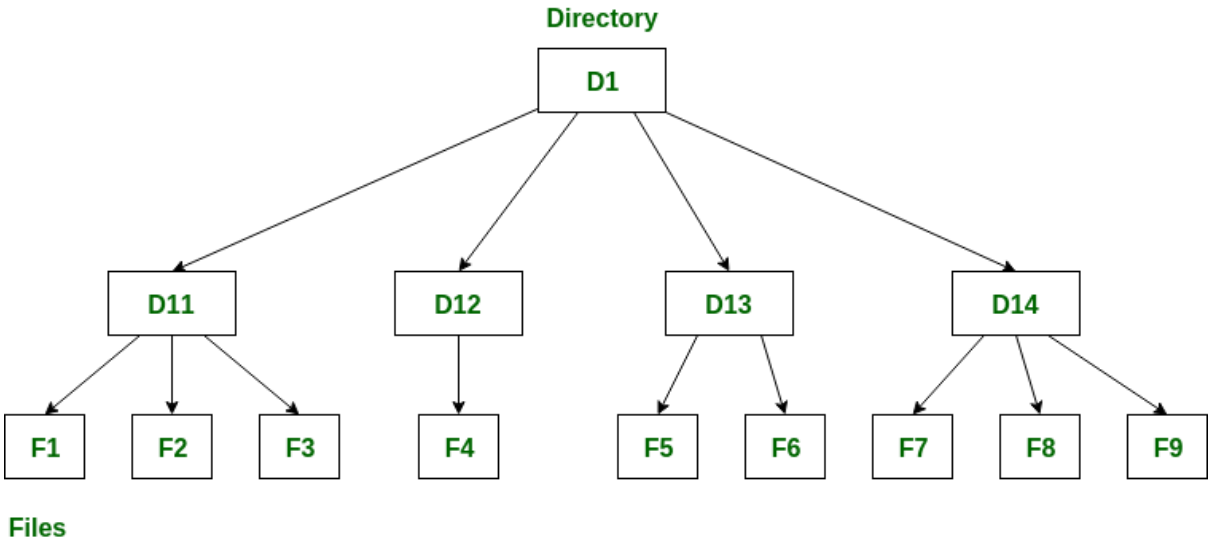
Structures of Directory in Operating System

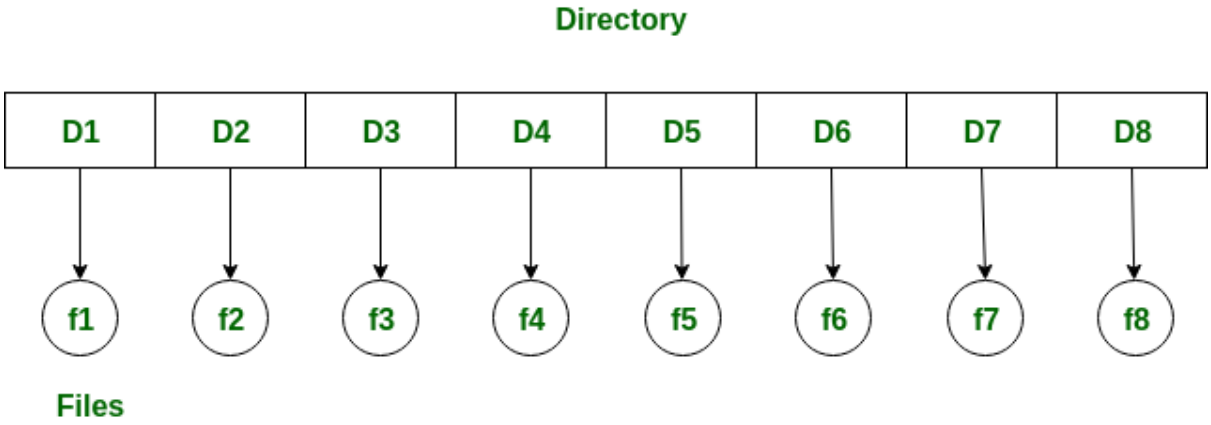
A **directory** is a container that is used to contain folders and files. It organizes files and folders in a hierarchical manner.



There are several logical structures of a directory, these are given below.

- **Single-leveldirectory**

The single-level directory is the simplest directory structure. In it, all files are contained in the same directory which makes it easy to support and understand.
A single level directory has a significant limitation, however, when the number of files increases or when the system has more than one user. Since all the files are in the same directory, they must have a unique name. if two users call their dataset test, then the unique name rule violated.



Advantages:

- Since it is a single directory, so its implementation is very easy.
- If the files are smaller in size, searching will become faster.
- The operations like file creation, searching, deletion, updating are very easy in such a directory structure.

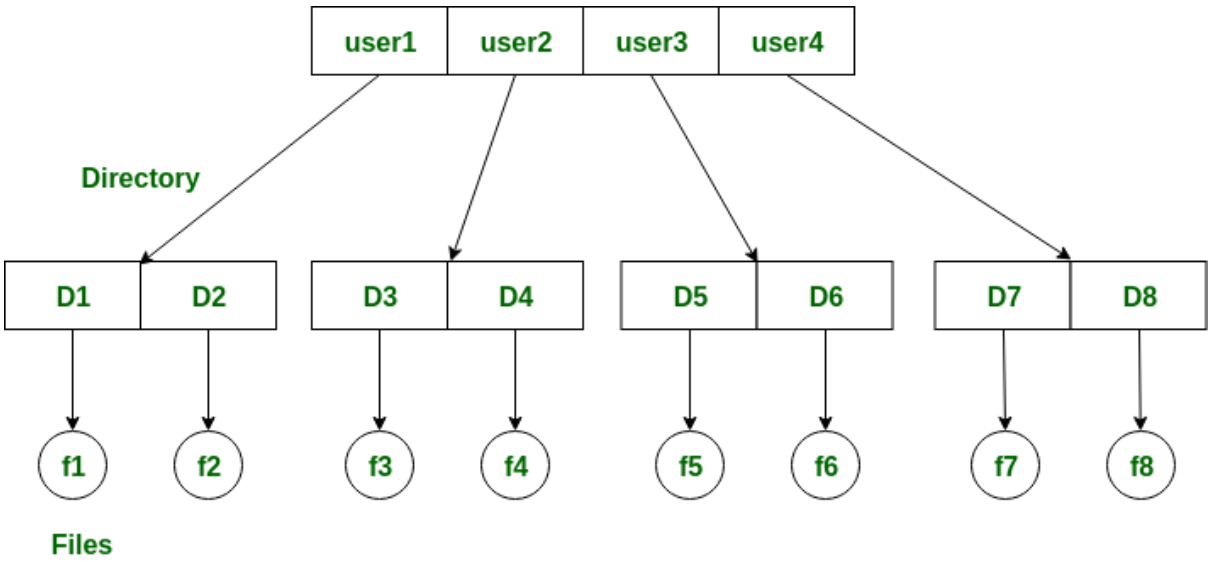
Disadvantages:

- There may chance of name collision because two files can have the same name.
- Searching will become time taking if the directory is large.
- This can not group the same type of files together.

Two-leveldirectory –

As we have seen, a single level directory often leads to confusion of files names among different users. the solution to this problem is to create a separate directory for each user.

In the two-level directory structure, each user has their own *user files directory (UFD)*. The UFDs have similar structures, but each lists only the files of a single user. system's *master file directory (MFD)* is searches whenever a new user id=s logged in. The MFD is indexed by username or account number, and each entry points to the UFD for that user.



Advantages:

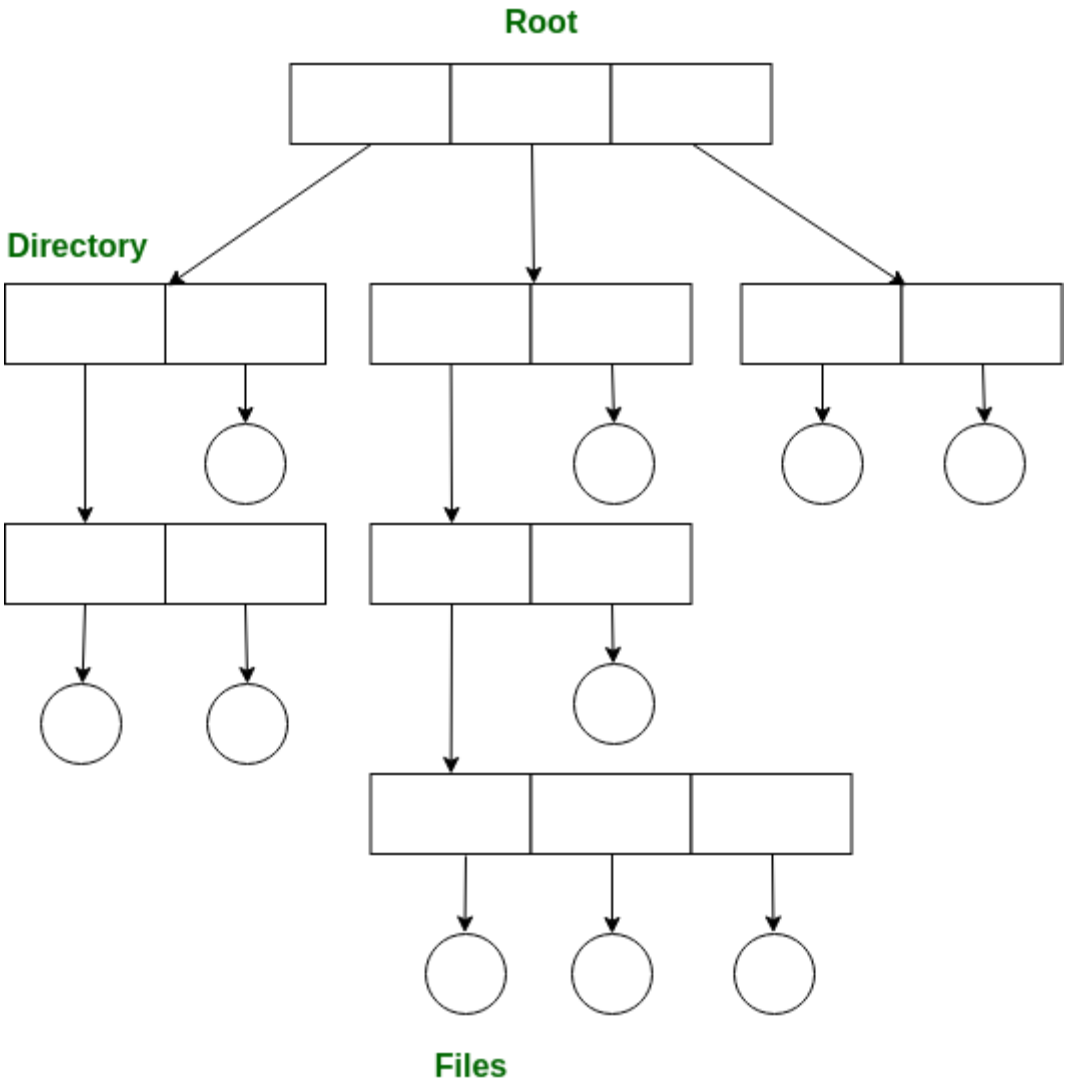
- We can give full path like /User-name/directory-name/.
- Different users can have the same directory as well as the file name.
- Searching of files becomes easier due to pathname and user-grouping.

Disadvantages:

- A user is not allowed to share files with other users.
- Still, it not very scalable, two files of the same type cannot be grouped together in the same user.

Tree-structureddirectory –

Once we have seen a two-level directory as a tree of height 2, the natural generalization is to extend the directory structure to a tree of arbitrary height.
This generalization allows the user to create their own subdirectories and to organize their files accordingly.



A tree structure is the most common directory structure. The tree has a root directory, and every file in the system has a unique path.

Advantages:

- Very general, since full pathname can be given.
- Very scalable, the probability of name collision is less.
- Searching becomes very easy, we can use both absolute paths as well as relative.

Disadvantages:

- Every file does not fit into the hierarchical model, files may be saved into multiple directories.
- We can not share files.
- It is inefficient, because accessing a file may go under multiple directories.