

The internal structure of the disk and file system

UNIX: the i-node mechanism

DOS: FAT table

Windows NT & 2000: the NTFS mechanism

Evolution of storage media

Storage technologies

Technology	Representation of bits at elementary level	Examples
Magnetic	- in the form of negatively or positively magnetized particles.	HDD, diskette, tape, magnetic tape
Optical	- in the form of microscopic points or cavities that have the role of reflecting light differently.	CD, DVD, mini-disc
Electronic	- the presence or absence of an electrical current in certain circuits, or the modulation of the state of certain circuits (closed-open) can also be interpreted as bits.	RAM, flash memory

The Hard Disk Is Sealed To Protect The Read Heads

HDD versus SSD

HDD versus SSD

- FASTER PERFORMANCE

- NO VIBRATIONS OR NOISE

- MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

- CHEAPER PER GB

- AVAILABLE IN LARGE VERSIONS

Structure of a HDD

Solid State Disks (SSDs)

1995 – Replace rotating magnetic media with non-volatile memory (battery backed DRAM)

2009 – Use NAND Multi-Level Cell (2-bit/cell) flash memory

- Sector (4 KB page) addressable, but stores 4-64 “pages” per memory block

Architecture of a solid-state drive

NAND - flash storage

You have constant time access to any page.

You can only write to (or program) an erased page.

You can only erase a block.

NAND - flash storage. Lifespan

the cells of NAND-flash modules are wearing off

Each cell has a maximum number of P/E cycles (Program/Erase), after which the cell is considered defective.

The life span of a Samsung 850 PRO with 1TB:

write cycles × capacity

SSD – factor × data per year

3000×1000 GB

5×1750 GB

~ 343 years

Anatomy of a hybrid hard drive

The internal structure of the UNIX disk

• **Boot block** contains the programs that load the resident part of the Unix operating system.

• **The superblock** contains general information about the file system on disk

• **I-nodes**

The i-node mechanism

Name	Explanation
mode	file access permissions
link count	the number of directories that contain references to this i-number
user ID	Owner user ID (UID)
group ID	Owner group ID (GID)
size	the number of bytes in the file (file length)
access time	the time the file was last accessed
mod time	the time the file was last modified
inode time	the time the i-node was last modified
block list	address list of the first few file blocks
indirect list	references to the rest of the blocks belonging to the file

List of blocks in a i-node

Internal structures of Windows and DOS file systems

FAT (File Allocation Table)

NTFS (NT File System)

The internal structure of the FAT disk

- **Boot area** - contains information that is used every time the operating system loads

- **File allocation table (FAT)**

- **The root directory**

- **The area of other files or directories**

Boot area

Offset	Content
+00h	JMP address. Jump to the operating system load routine
+03h	Manufacturer name and version
+0Bh	Number of bytes per sector
+0Dh	Number of sectors per cluster
+0Eh	Number of reserved sectors (before FAT)
+10h	Number of FATs
+11h	The maximum number of entries in the root directory
+13h	Total number of sectors
+15h	Media descriptor
+16h	The number of sectors in a FAT
+1Bh	Number of sectors per track
+1Ah	Number of read/write heads
+1Ch	Number of hidden sectors
+1Eh	Boot routine

BPB table

BIOS

Parameter

Block

FAT table

• contains disk space allocation information for each file;

• contains as many entries as clusters (groups of sectors) exist on disk;

• each input can handle 12 bits (FAT12), 16 bits (FAT or FAT16) or 32 bits (FAT32).

Example of FAT

Structure of directories

Offset	Content
+00h	File name
+08h	Filename extension
+0Bh	Attributes
+0Ch	10 bytes booked
+16h	The time of the last modification of the file
+18h	The date of the last modification of the file
+1Ah	The number of the first cluster occupied by the file
+1Ch	File size (4 bytes)

The internal structure of the NTFS disk

- **Boot area** (Partition Boot Sector)

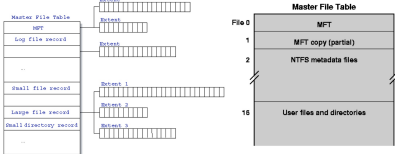
- **MFT** (Master File Table)

Simple design: “everything on the volume is a file and everything in a file is an attribute”

NTFS boot area

Byte Offset	Field Length	Field Name
0x00	3 bytes	Jump Instruction
0x03	LONGLONG	OEM ID
0x0B	25 bytes	BPB
0x24	48 bytes	Extended BPB
0x54	426 bytes	Bootstrap Code
0x01FE	WORD	End of Sector Marker

Master File Table



List of attributes of a file in NTFS

Attribute Type	Description
Standard Information	Includes information about creation time, change, etc.
The Attributes list	List of all attributes that are not resident.
File Name	
Security Descriptor	Represents the file owner
Data	The contents of the actual file; data stream
Object ID	A unique volume identifier
Logging stream	Data stream with saved operations in the log file
Reparse Point	Used for mounting volumes.
Index Root	Used for directories
Index Allocation	----- -----
Bitmap	----- -----
Volume Information	Contains version information
Volume Name	Contains the volume name

NTFS system files

File/Ab	Name	MFT index	Description
MFT	\$Mft	0	Contains MFT
MFT2	\$MftMirr	1	Copy image of MFT
Log file	\$LogFile	2	List of Transactions Made
Volume	\$Volume	3	Volume information
Attribute Definitions	\$AttrDef	4	A table of attribute names and descriptors
Root index file	\$	5	The root directory
Cluster bitmap	\$Bitmap	6	Clusters used in volume
The boot sector	\$Boot	7	The code by which the SO is loaded
Bad cluster	\$BadCluster	8	An index of broken clusters
Security files	\$Secure	9	Security information about each file
Upcase table	\$Upcase	10	Convert small case characters into upper case ones
NTFS extension	\$Extend	11	Used for NTFS extensions (ex: \$Quota, \$ObjId, \$Reparse, \$UsnJrnl)
		12-15	Reserved

The End