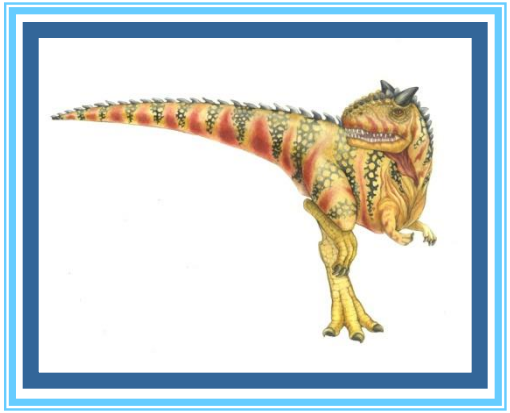
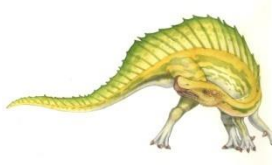
Chapter 11: File-System Interface



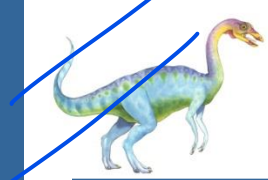
Chapter 10: File-System

- File Concept
- Access Methods
- Disk and Directory Structure
- Protection



Objectives

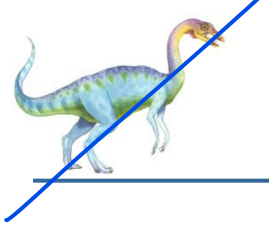
- To explain the function of file systems
- To describe the interfaces to file systems
- To discuss file-system design tradeoffs, including access methods, file sharing, file locking, and directory structures
- To explore file-system protection



File Concept

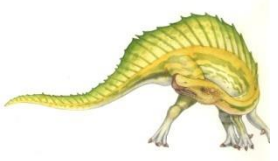
What is file?

- Contiguous logical address space
- Types:
  - Data
    - numeric
    - character
    - binary
  - Program
- Contents defined by file's creator
  - Many types
    - Consider **text file, source file, executable file**

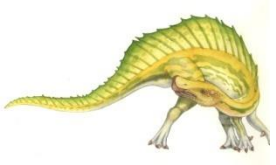


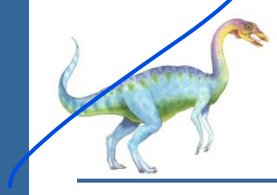
File Attributes

- **Name** – only information kept in human-readable form
- **Identifier** – unique tag (number) identifies file within file system
- **Type** – needed for systems that support different types
- **Location** – pointer to file location on device
- **Size** – current file size
- **Protection** – controls who can do reading, writing, executing
- **Time, date, and user identification** – data for protection, security, and usage monitoring
- Information about files are kept in the directory structure, which is maintained on the disk
- Many variations, including extended file attributes such as file checksum
- Information kept in the directory structure



File info Window on Mac OS X





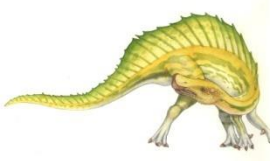
File Operations

- File is an **abstract data type**
- **Create**
- **Write –** at **write pointer** location
- **Read –** at **read pointer** location
- **Reposition within file** - **seek**
- **Delete**
- **Truncate**
- ***Open(F_i)*** – search the directory structure on disk for entry ***F_i***, and move the content of entry to memory
- ***Close (F_i)*** – move the content of entry ***F_i*** in memory to directory structure on disk

Explain the File attributes in detail.

Open Files

- Several pieces of data are needed to manage open files:
  - **Open-file table**: tracks open files
  - File pointer: pointer to last read/write location, per process that has the file open
  - **File-open count**: counter of number of times a file is open – to allow removal of data from open-file table when last processes closes it
  - Disk location of the file: cache of data access information
  - Access rights: per-process access mode information



Open File Locking

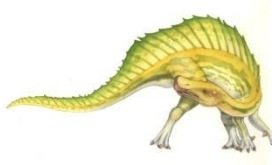
- Provided by some operating systems and file systems
  - Similar to reader-writer locks
  - **Shared lock** similar to reader lock – several processes can acquire concurrently
  - **Exclusive lock** similar to writer lock
- Mediates access to a file
- Mandatory or advisory:
  - **Mandatory** – access is denied depending on locks held and requested
  - **Advisory** – processes can find status of locks and decide what to do

File Locking Example – Java API

```
import java.io.*;
import java.nio.channels.*;
public class LockingExample {
    public static final boolean EXCLUSIVE = false;
    public static final boolean SHARED = true;
    public static void main(String arsg[]) throws IOException {
        FileLock sharedLock = null;
        FileLock exclusiveLock = null;
        try {
            RandomAccessFile raf = new RandomAccessFile("file.txt", "rw");
            // get the channel for the file
            FileChannel ch = raf.getChannel();
            // this locks the first half of the file - exclusive
            exclusiveLock = ch.lock(0, raf.length()/2, EXCLUSIVE);
            /** Now modify the data . . . */
            // release the lock
            exclusiveLock.release();
```

File Locking Example – Java API (Cont.)

```
                    // this locks the second half of the file - shared
                    sharedLock = ch.lock(raf.length()/2+1, raf.length(),
                                         SHARED);
                    /** Now read the data . . . */
                    // release the lock
                    sharedLock.release();
                } catch (java.io.IOException ioe) {
                    System.err.println(ioe);
                }finally {
                    if (exclusiveLock != null)
                    exclusiveLock.release();
                    if (sharedLock != null)
                    sharedLock.release();
                }
            }
        }
```



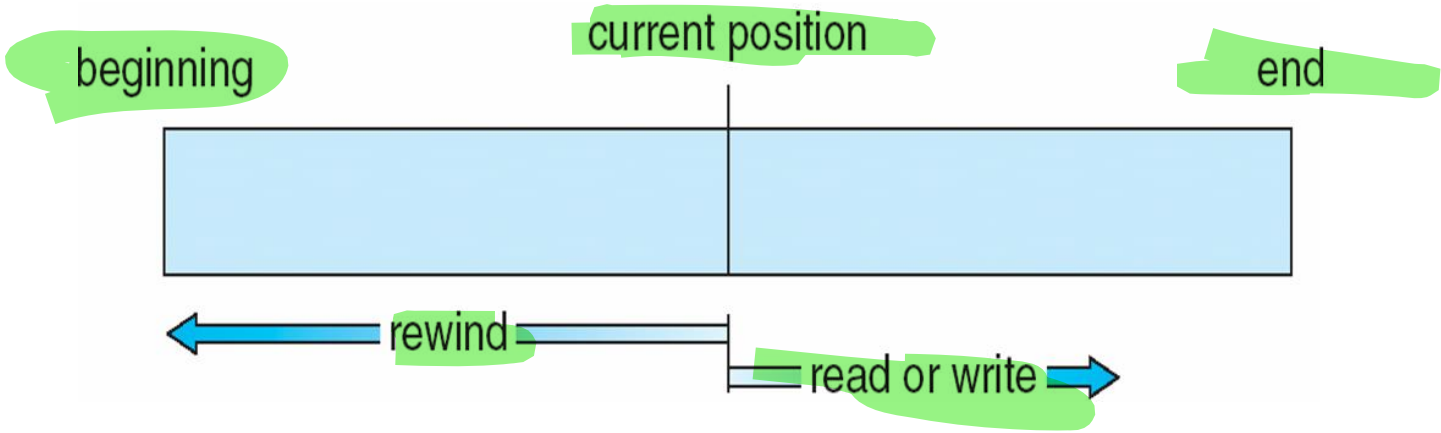
File Types – Name, Extension

file type	usual extension	function
executable	exe, com, bin or none	ready-to-run machine-language program
object	obj, o	compiled, machine language, not linked
source code	c, cc, java, pas, asm, a	source code in various languages
batch	bat, sh	commands to the command interpreter
text	txt, doc	textual data, documents
word processor	wp, tex, rtf, doc	various word-processor formats
library	lib, a, so, dll	libraries of routines for programmers
print or view	ps, pdf, jpg	ASCII or binary file in a format for printing or viewing
archive	arc, zip, tar	related files grouped into one file, sometimes compressed, for archiving or storage
multimedia	mpeg, mov, rm, mp3, avi	binary file containing audio or A/V information

File Structure

- None - sequence of words, bytes
- Simple record structure
  - Lines
  - Fixed length
  - Variable length
- Complex Structures
  - Formatted document
  - Relocatable load file
- Can simulate last two with first method by inserting appropriate control characters
- Who decides:
  - Operating system
  - Program

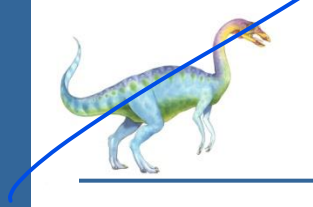
Sequential-access File



Explain the following file access methods.
i. Sequential Access ii. Direct Access.

Sequential access processes a file linearly, from beginning to end, like reading a book.
Each read operation accesses the next record, advancing a file pointer.
This is simple and efficient for processing data in order, but accessing a specific record requires traversing all preceding ones.
Examples include text editors and compilers.

Direct access, conversely, allows random access to any record in a file.
The file is structured into fixed-length records, each directly addressable.
This is analogous to accessing a specific page in a book using its page number.
It's ideal for databases or applications needing rapid access to specific data, but requires a more complex file structure and potentially more overhead.
Direct access is typically implemented using disk-based storage.
Simulating direct access on a sequential file is inefficient, while simulating sequential access on a direct access file is straightforward. The choice between these methods depends heavily on the application's needs.



Access Methods

- **Sequential Access**

```
read next
write next
reset
```

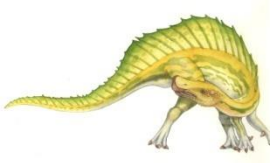
no read after last write (rewrite)

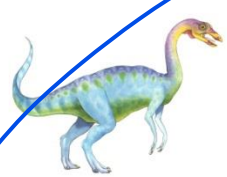
- **Direct Access –** file is fixed length logical records

```
read n
write n
position to n
        read next
        write next
rewrite n
```

n = relative block number

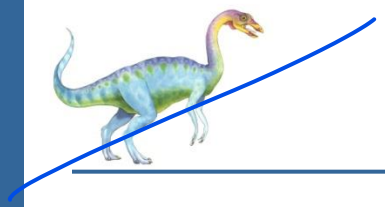
- Relative block numbers allow OS to decide where file should be placed
  - See allocation problem in Ch 12





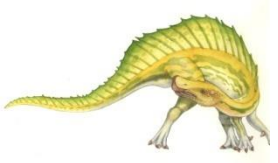
Simulation of Sequential Access on Direct-access File

sequential access	implementation for direct access
reset	*cp* = 0;
read next	*read cp*; *cp* = *cp* + 1;
write next	*write cp*; *cp* = *cp* + 1;

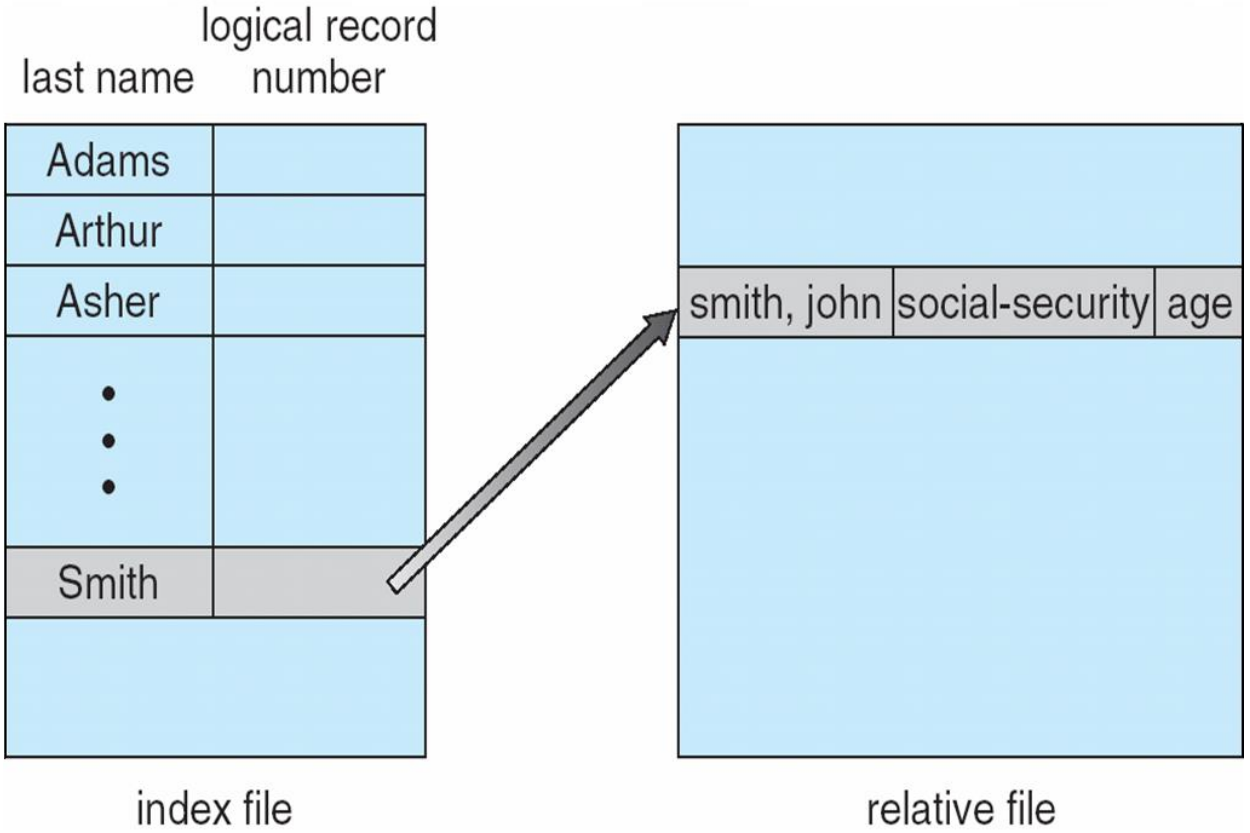


Other Access Methods

- Can be built on top of base methods
- General involve creation of an index for the file
- Keep index in memory for fast determination of location of data to be operated on (consider UPC code plus record of data about that item)
- If too large, index (in memory) of the index (on disk)
- IBM indexed sequential-access method (ISAM)
  - Small master index, points to disk blocks of secondary index
  - File kept sorted on a defined key
  - All done by the OS
- VMS operating system provides index and relative files as another example (see next slide)

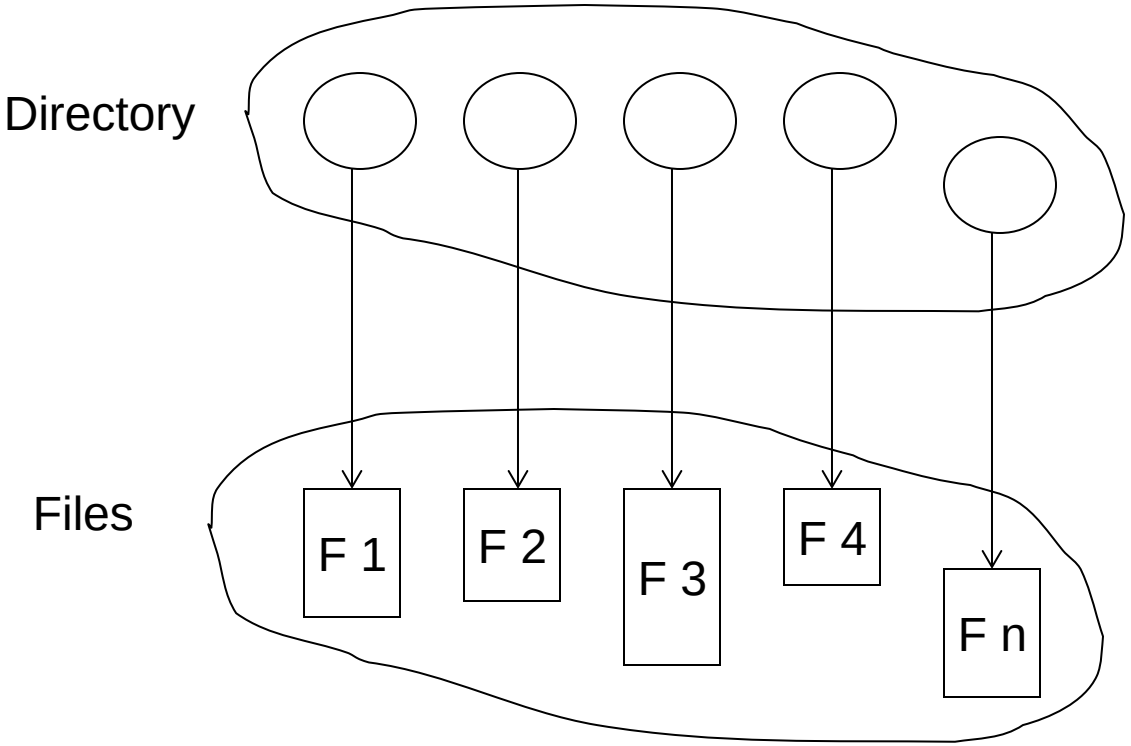


Example of Index and Relative Files

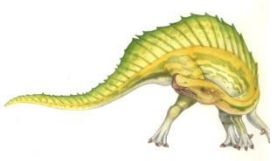


Directory Structure

- A collection of nodes containing information about all files

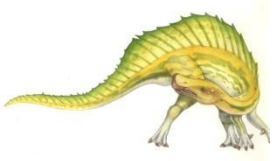


Both the directory structure and the files reside on disk

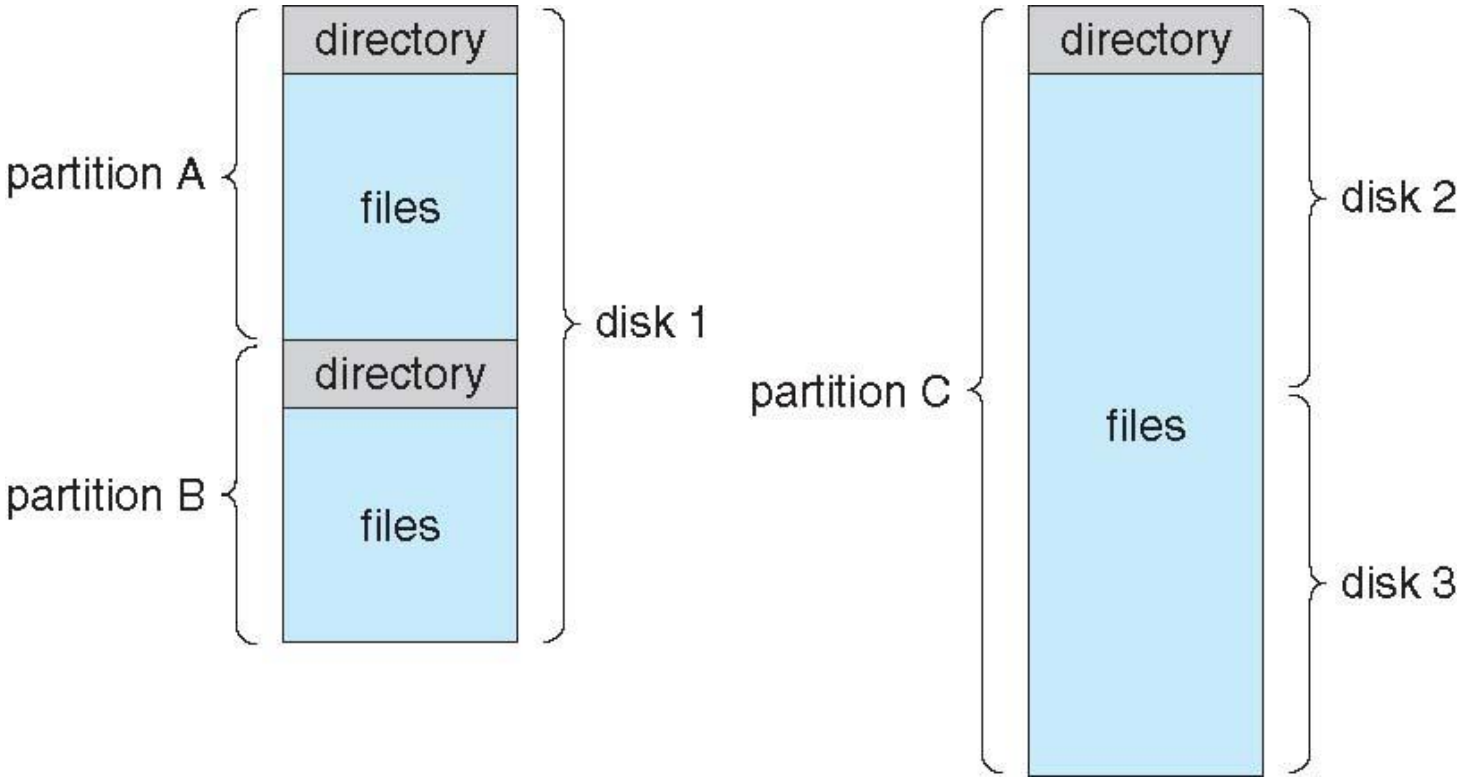


Disk Structure

- Disk can be subdivided into **partitions**
- Disks or partitions can be **RAID** protected against failure
- Disk or partition can be used **raw** – without a file system, or **formatted** with a file system
- Partitions also known as minidisks, slices
- Entity containing file system known as a **volume**
- Each volume containing file system also tracks that file system's info in **device directory** or **volume table of contents**
- As well as **general-purpose file systems** there are many **special-purpose file systems**, frequently all within the same operating system or computer

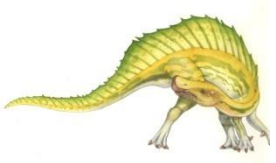


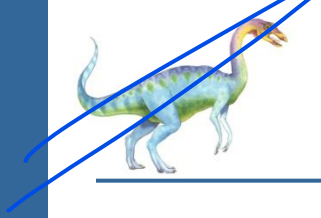
A Typical File-system Organization



Types of File Systems

- We mostly talk of general-purpose file systems
- But systems frequently have may file systems, some general- and some special- purpose
- Consider Solaris has
  - tmpfs – memory-based volatile FS for fast, temporary I/O
  - objfs – interface into kernel memory to get kernel symbols for debugging
  - ctfs – contract file system for managing daemons
  - lofs – loopback file system allows one FS to be accessed in place of another
  - procfs – kernel interface to process structures
  - ufs, zfs – general purpose file systems





Operations Performed on Directory

- Search for a file
- Create a file
- Delete a file
- List a directory
- Rename a file
- Traverse the file system

Discuss the operations that are performed on a directory.

Directories are essential components of a file system, and several operations can be performed on them to manage and organize files. Here are the key operations:

Search for a file: This operation allows users to locate a specific file within a directory. It involves traversing the directory structure to find the file's entry.

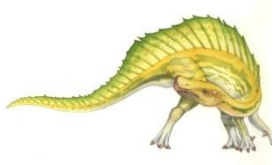
Create a file: This operation involves adding a new file to the directory. The directory structure is updated to include the new file's information.

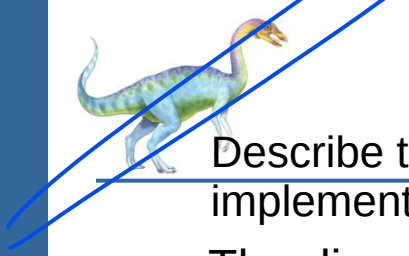
Delete a file: This operation removes a file from the directory. The directory entry for the file is deleted, and the space occupied by the file is freed.

List a directory: This operation displays the contents of a directory, including the names of files and subdirectories. It helps users see what files are available in a directory.

Rename a file: This operation changes the name of a file within the directory. The directory entry is updated with the new file name.

Traverse the file system: This operation involves navigating through the directory structure to access files and subdirectories. It allows users to move from one directory to another and access the files they need.





Directory Organization

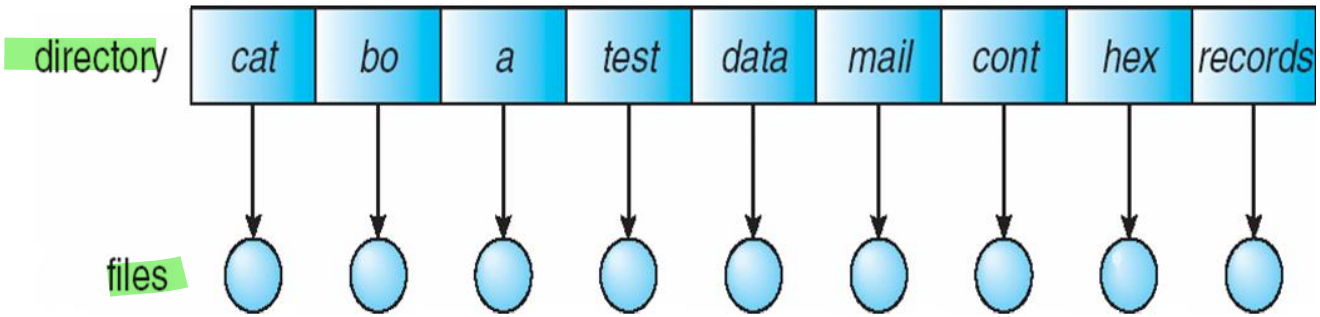
Describe the methods used for implementing the directories.

The directory is organized logically to obtain

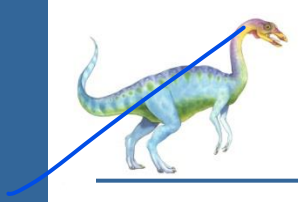
- Efficiency – locating a file quickly
- Naming – convenient to users
  - Two users can have same name for different files
  - The same file can have several different names
- Grouping – logical grouping of files by properties, (e.g., all Java programs, all games, …)

Single-Level Directory

- A single directory for all users

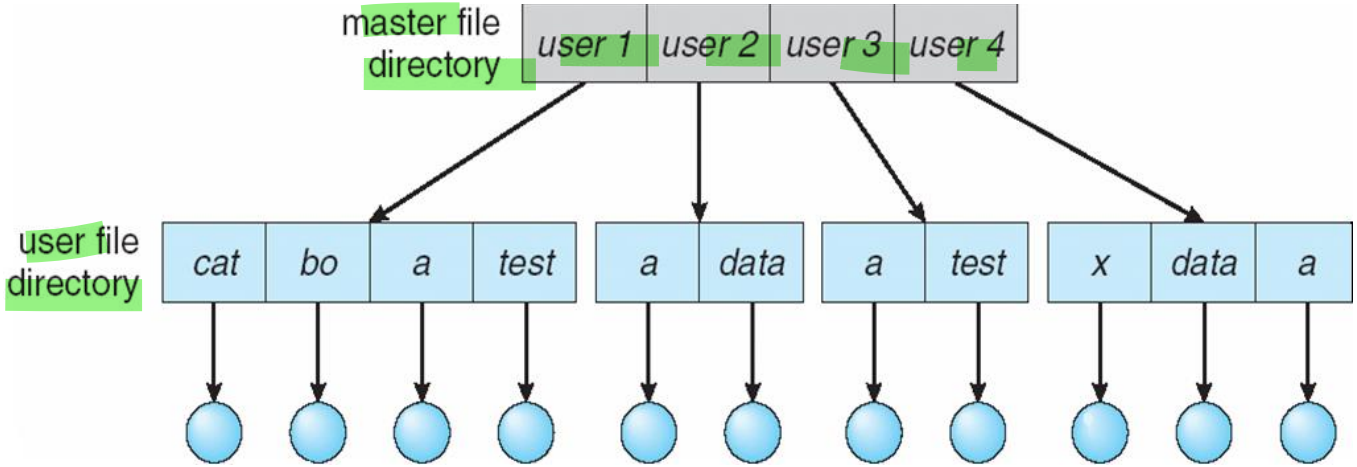


- Naming problem
- Grouping problem



Two-Level Directory

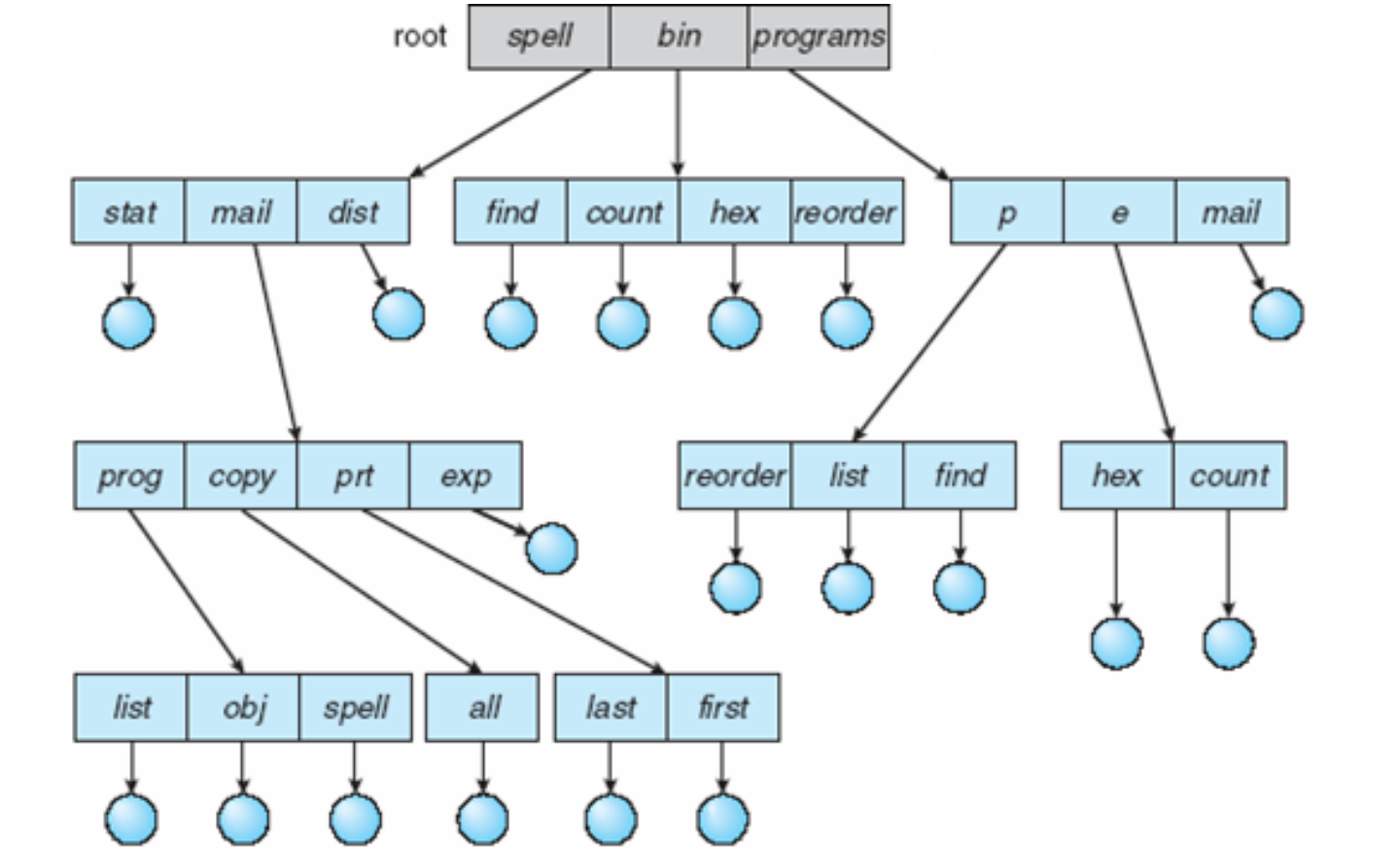
- Separate directory for each user

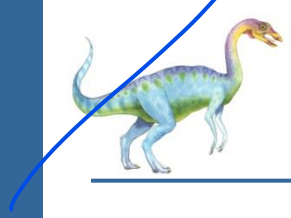


- Path name
- Can have the same file name for different user
- Efficient searching
- No grouping capability

Tree-Structured Directories

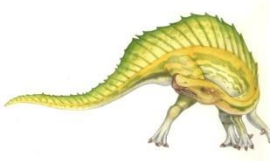
Explain with a neat diagram, tree-structure directories.





Tree-Structured Directories (Cont.)

- Efficient searching
- Grouping Capability
- Current directory (working directory)
  - `cd /spell/mail/prog`
  - `type list`



Tree-Structured Directories (Cont)

- **Absolute** or **relative** path name
- Creating a new file is done in current directory
- Delete a file

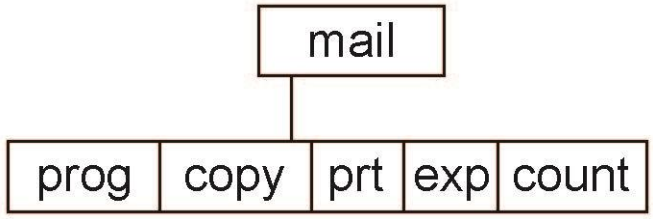
```
rm <file-name>
```

- Creating a new subdirectory is done in current directory

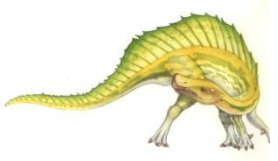
```
mkdir <dir-name>
```

Example: if in current directory **`/mail`**

```
mkdir count
```



Deleting “mail” ⇒ deleting the entire subtree rooted by “mail”

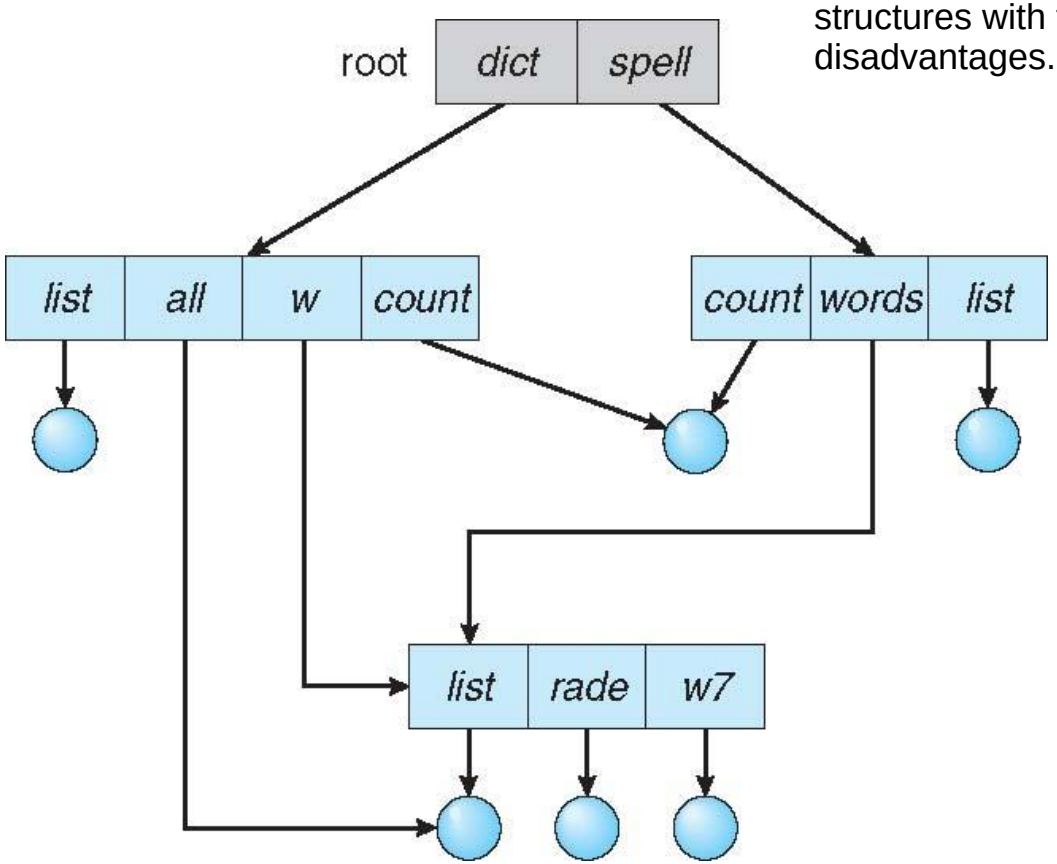


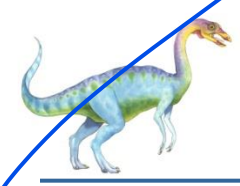
Acyclic-Graph Directories

- Have shared subdirectories and files

Explain the Tree Structured Directory and Acyclic Graph Directory

structures with their advantages and disadvantages.

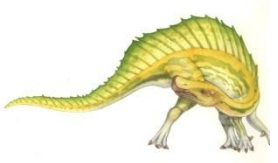




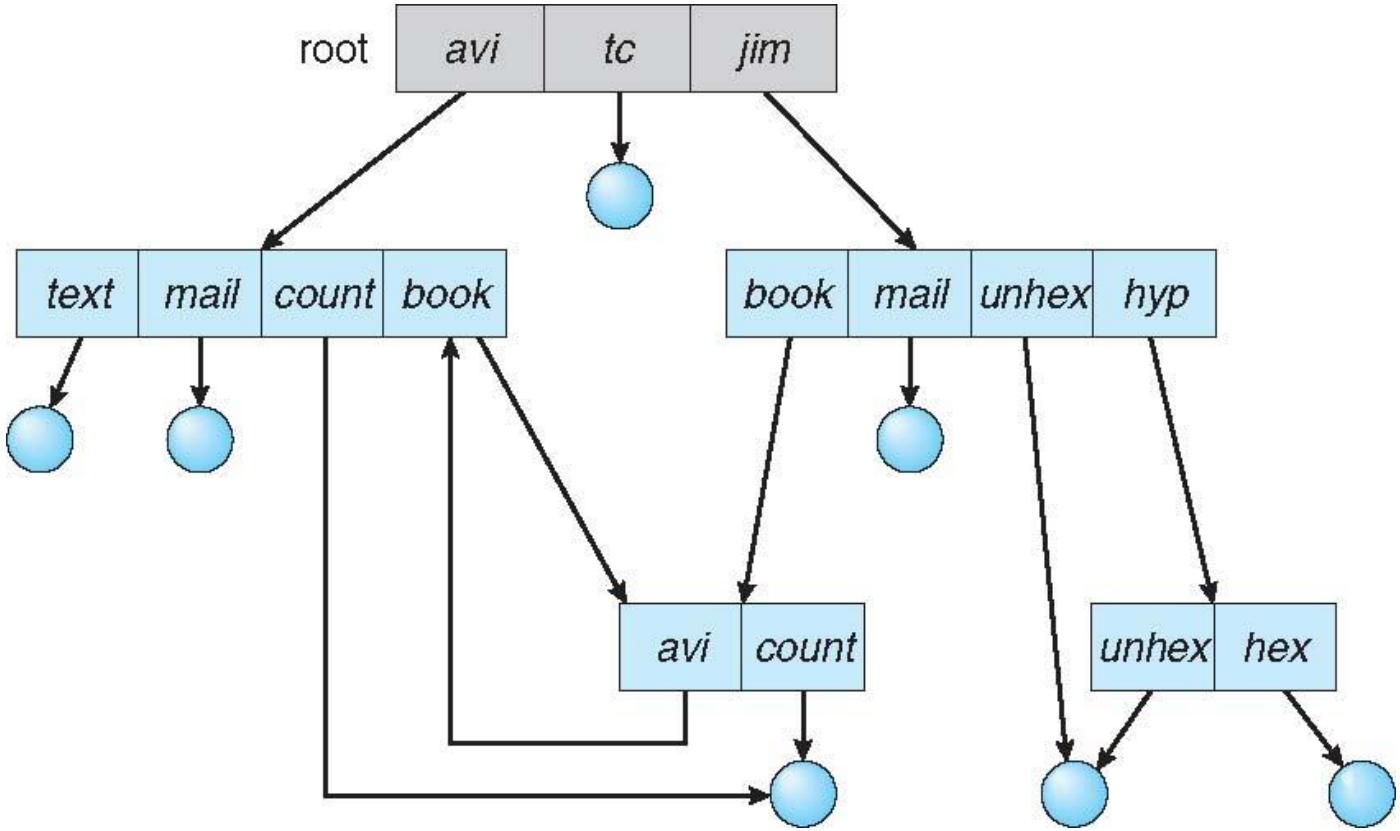
Acyclic-Graph Directories (Cont.)

- Two different names (aliasing)
- If ***dict*** deletes ***list*** ⇒ dangling pointer

  Solutions:
  - Backpointers, so we can delete all pointers
    Variable size records a problem
  - Backpointers using a daisy chain organization
  - Entry-hold-count solution
- New directory entry type
  - **Link** – another name (pointer) to an existing file
  - **Resolve the link** – follow pointer to locate the file

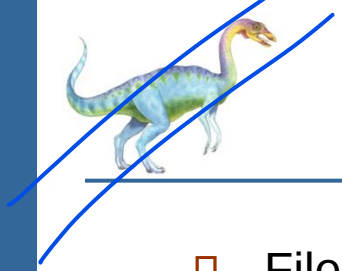


General Graph Directory



General Graph Directory (Cont.)

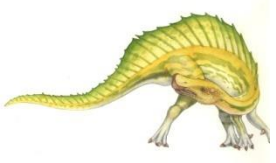
- How do we guarantee no cycles?
  - Allow only links to file not subdirectories
  - **Garbage collection**
  - Every time a new link is added use a cycle detection algorithm to determine whether it is OK



Protection

- File owner/creator should be able to control:
  - what can be done
  - by whom
- Types of access
  - **Read**
  - **Write**
  - **Execute**
  - **Append**
  - **Delete**
  - **List**

Explain the goals & principles of protection in detail.



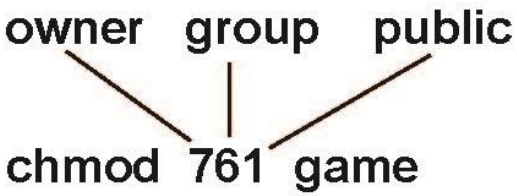
Access Lists and Groups

Show how files in the computer system can be protected based on access control approach.

- Mode of access: read, write, execute
- Three classes of users on Unix / Linux

			RWX
a) **owner access**	7	⇒	1 1 1
b) **group access**	6	⇒	RWX 1 1 0
c) **public access**	1	⇒	RWX 0 0 1

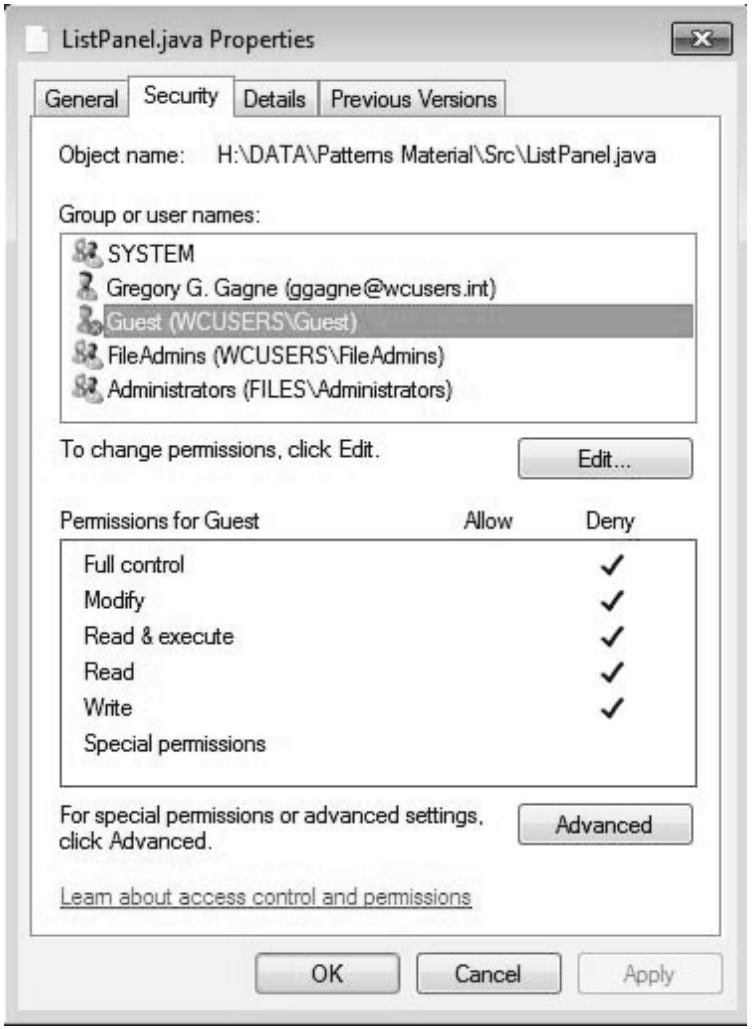
- Ask manager to create a group (unique name), say G, and add some users to the group.
- For a particular file (say *game*) or subdirectory, define an appropriate access.



Attach a group to a file

```
chgrp    G    game
```

Windows 7 Access-Control List Management



A Sample UNIX Directory Listing

-rw-rw-r--	1 pbg	staff	31200	Sep 3 08:30	intro.ps
drwx------	5 pbg	staff	512	Jul 8 09.33	private/
drwxrwxr-x	2 pbg	staff	512	Jul 8 09:35	doc/
drwxrwx---	2 pbg	student	512	Aug 3 14:13	student-proj/
-rw-r--r--	1 pbg	staff	9423	Feb 24 2003	program.c
-rwxr-xr-x	1 pbg	staff	20471	Feb 24 2003	program
drwx--x--x	4 pbg	faculty	512	Jul 31 10:31	lib/
drwx------	3 pbg	staff	1024	Aug 29 06:52	mail/
drwxrwxrwx	3 pbg	staff	512	Jul 8 09:35	test/

End of Chapter 11