



CSC/CEG 3150 Tutorial

Introduction to FAT32 and Assignment 3

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Outline

CSC/CEG
3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

1 Outline

2 FAT32

- Ideas
- FAT
- Layout
- Areas
- BootEntry
- Program Flow
- Read/Write Sector/Cluster
- DirEntry

3 Milestones

- Introduction
- List
- Read file

4 Q & A

5 Acknowledgement



Sectors

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3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas
FAT
Layout
Areas
BootEntry
Program
Flow
Read/Write
Sector/Cluster
DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- Basic unit of physical disk access
- Usually 512 bytes for magnetic disk
- Usually 2048 bytes for optical disk
- The size is NOT fixed in Assignment 3



How are files stored in the disks?

CSC/CEG
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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program

Flow

Read/Write

Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- File size various
- Recall what we learned from Assignment 2
 - Like memory, hard disk can also be viewed as a flat space, using (logical) sector address(no longer C/H/S)
 - We use some simple data structure to manage the data
- Actually the idea is similar
- We may also use naive management strategy, e.g.
 - File stores in contiguous sectors
 - All files store in the same directory(i.e. no directory)
 - A header per file, stores some meta-info, e.g. file size
 - We group all the headers together like a database so as to locate the file (linear search)
- This really can make a file system,but...



Further consideration

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

Boot Entry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- Defect
 - When appending data to a file, we must reallocate space
 - Disk I/O is very slow!
 - When files are deleted, fragments are made, we must defragment the disk often
 - When the number of files is large, it takes too long to do the search
- Solution
 - Allow files to store non-consecutive
 - **Directory tree** is more convenient to group data into a hierarchical manner



Clusters and FAT

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas
FAT

Layout
Areas

Boot Entry

Program
Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

Dir Entry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- Cluster is basic (logical) unit in FAT32
- File and directory content is stored in clusters
- A file occupies several clusters, rather than sectors. There is **time-space trade off**
- If the size of a file exceeds one cluster, use a **linked list** to find next block(cluster), which will form a **cluster chain**
- Note that the **cluster index starts from 2**



FAT

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3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- The FAT located in FAT area is used for such purpose, like a static linked list.
- The basic idea of FAT is to use **File Allocation Table** to keep track of the file allocation status
- Each entry A in FAT points to another FAT entry B, which means the Cluster A is occupied by this file, and its next cluster is Cluster B
- Use a reserved number EOC to denote **End Of Cluster** (think of NULL)

Description	value
Unallocated	0x?0000000 ¹
Allocated	0x?00000002~0x?FFFFFFEF
EOC	0x?FFFFFFF8~0x?FFFFFFF

¹‘?’ means upper 4 bits are usually zero but are reserved and should be left untouched



Cluster chain

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

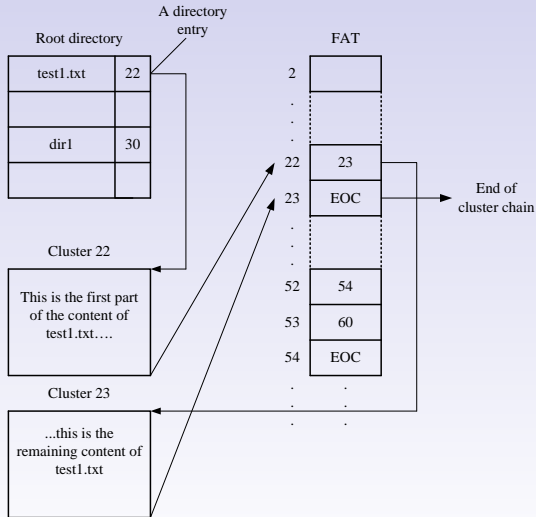


Figure: Cluster chain



FAT32 File System Layout

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

Boot Entry

Program

Flow

Read/Write

Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

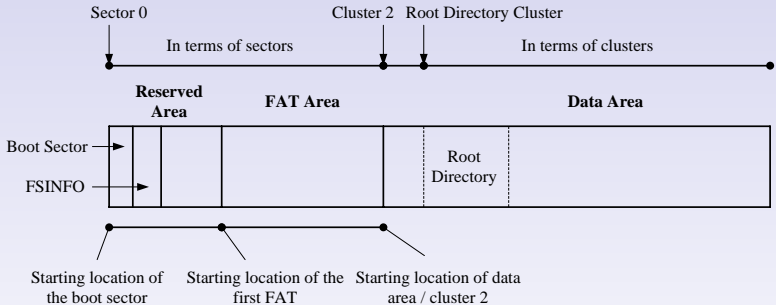


Figure: FAT32 file system overview



Three Important Areas in FAT32

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

Boot Entry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

Dir Entry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- **Reserved Area**
 - First several sectors(usually 32) reserved for special use
 - The first sector (sector 0) is the **boot sector**
 - Contains important information about the file system
E.g. number of bytes per sector, number of sectors per cluster
 - Contains the boot code (if necessary)
Pointed by an assembly jump instruction in the first 3 bytes of sector 0
- **FAT Area**
 - Contains a number of File Allocation Tables (FATs), usually 2 (it is not fixed,though)
 - Located just after the reserved area
- **Data Area**
 - Contains the root directory
 - Contains files / directories
 - Located just after the last FAT



Boot Sector and DOS Boot Record

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3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- Boot Sector is the first sector, i.e. sector 0
- DBR(DOS Boot Record) is 0-512B in Boot Sector
 - Contains IMPORTANT information of the file system
- The data structure is predefined
 - Declare a such data structure in your program
 - Be careful of the byte alignment in struct
 - Read and memcpy the boot sector into your data structure
 - You can now extract useful information from your data structure

```
00000000: eb3c 906d 6b64 6f73 6673 0000 0204 0100  .<.mkdosfs.....
00000010: 0200 0200 a0f8 2800 2000 4000 0000 0000  .....( .@.....
.....
00001f0: 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 55aa  .....U.
```

```
OEM NAME = mkdosfs
bytes per sector = 0x0200 = 512
sector per cluster = 0x04 = 4
```

Listing 1: Boot Record example



0 - 35 Bytes in Boot Sector (FAT32)

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3150
Tutorial

```
#pragma pack(push,1)      /* BYTE align in memory (no padding) */
typedef struct BootEntry{
    unsigned char BS_jmpBoot[3];      /* Assembly instruction to jump to
                                       boot code */
    unsigned char BS_OEMName[8];      /* OEM Name in ASCII */
    unsigned short BPB_BytsPerSec;    /* Bytes per sector. Allowed values
                                       include 512,1024, 2048, and 4096 */
    unsigned char BPB_SecPerClus;     /* Sectors per cluster (data unit).
                                       Allowed values are powers of 2, but the
                                       cluster size must be 32KB or smaller */
    unsigned short BPB_RsvdSecCnt;    /* Size in sectors of the reserved area */
    unsigned char BPB_NumFATs;        /* Number of FATs */
    unsigned short BPB_RootEntCnt;    /* Maximum number of files in the root
                                       directory for FAT12 and FAT16. This is
                                       0 for FAT32 */
    unsigned short BPB_TotSec16;      /* 16-bit value of number of sectors in
                                       file system */
    unsigned char BPB_Media;          /* Media type */
    unsigned short BPB_FATSz16;       /* 16-bit size in sectors of each FAT
                                       for FAT12 and FAT16. For FAT32, this
                                       field is 0 */
    unsigned short BPB_SecPerTrk;     /* Sectors per track of storage device */
    unsigned short BPB_NumHeads;      /* Number of heads in storage device */
    unsigned long BPB_HiddSec;        /* Number of sectors before the start of partit
    unsigned long BPB_TotSec32;        /* 32-bit value of number of sectors in file sys

    Either this value or the 16-bit value above must be 0 */
```

Listing 2: Boot Entry 0 - 35 Bytes



36 - 89 Bytes in Boot Sector (FAT32)

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3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

```
unsigned long BPB_FATSz32; /* 32-bit size in sectors of one FAT */
unsigned short BPB_ExtFlags; /* A flag for FAT */
unsigned short BPB_FSVer; /* The major and minor version number */
unsigned long BPB_RootClus; /* Cluster where the root directory
                             be found */
unsigned short BPB_FSInfo; /* Sector where FSINFO structure can be
                             found */
unsigned short BPB_BkBootSec; /* Sector where backup copy of boot
                               sector is located */
unsigned char BPB_Reserved[12]; /* Reserved */
unsigned char BS_DrvNum; /* BIOS INT13h drive number */
unsigned char BS_Reserved1; /* Not used */
unsigned char BS_BootSig; /* Extended boot signature to identify
                           if the next three values are valid */
unsigned long BS_VolID; /* Volume serial number */
unsigned char BS_VolLab[11]; /* Volume label in ASCII. User defines
                              when creating the file system */
unsigned char BS_FilSysType[8]; /* File system type label in ASCII */
}BootEntry;
#pragma pack(pop) /* BYTE align in memory (no padding)*/
```

Listing 3: Boot Entry 36 - 89 Bytes



Sample work flow

CSC/CEG
3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program
Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

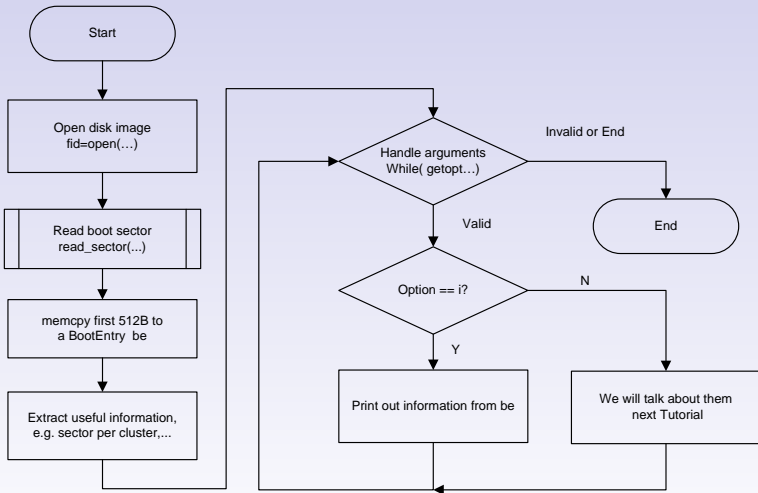


Figure: Sample work flow



How to read data in terms of sectors?

CSC/CEG
3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

```
/* go to the sector indicated by "sector_number",
 * then read n contiguous sectors (n = num_sectors),
 * and write the result into "buffer" */
/* Remember to clear the buffer first */
int read_sectors(int sector_number, unsigned char *buffer, int num_sectors)
{
    int dest, len;      /* used for error checking only */

    dest = lseek(fid, sector_number*bps, SEEK_SET);
    if(dest != sector_number*bps)
    {
        /* Error handling here */
    }
    if(bps*num_sectors > MAX)
    {
        /* Error handling here */
    }
    len = read(fid, buffer, bps*num_sectors);
    if(len != bps*num_sectors)
    {
        /* Error handling here */
    }
    return len;
}
```

Listing 4: read sector



How to write data in terms of sectors?

CSC/CEG
3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

```
/* go to the sector indicated by "sector_number",
 * then write n contiguous sectors (n = num_sectors)
 * with the contents in "buffer" */
int write_sectors(int sector_number, unsigned char *buffer, int num_sectors)
{
    int dest, len;

    dest = lseek(fid, sector_number*bps, SEEK_SET);
    if (dest != sector_number*bps)
    {
        /* Error handling here */
    }
    len = write(fid, buffer, bps*num_sectors);
    if(len != bps*num_sectors)
    {
        /* Error handling here */
    }
    return len;
}
```

Listing 5: write sector



Relationship between Cluster and Sector

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- cluster(C) to sector(S):
 - $(C-2) * (\text{sector per cluster}) + (\text{sector of cluster 2})$
- sector(S) to cluster(C):
 - $(S - \text{sector of cluster 2}) / (\text{sector per cluster}) + 2$
- sector of cluster 2 = ?
 - starting sector of data area

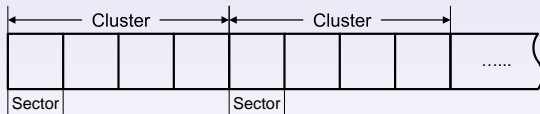


Figure: Example:sector per cluster = 4



Directory in FAT32

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- In FAT32, directory is like a normal file
- Its contents are information of the files in it

Outline

FAT32

Ideas
FAT
Layout
Areas
BootEntry
Program
Flow
Read/Write
Sector/Cluster
DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

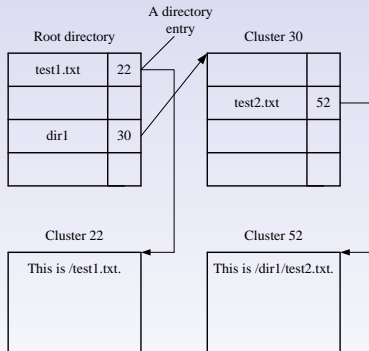


Figure: Directory entry



C struct of Directory Entry

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

Boot Entry

Program

Flow

Read/Write

Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

```

#pragma pack(push,1)
struct DirEntry
{
    /* Unallocated if first character is 0xe5 or 0x00 */
    unsigned char DIR_Name[11] ;      /* File name in 3.8 format */
    unsigned char DIR_Attr ;          /* File attributes */
    unsigned char DIR_NTRes ;         /* Reserved */
    unsigned char DIR_CrtTimeTenth ;  /* Created time */
    unsigned short DIR_CrtTime ;      /* Created time */
    unsigned short DIR_CrtDate ;      /* Created day */
    unsigned short DIR_LstAccDate ;    /* Accessed day */
    unsigned short DIR_FstClusHI ;     /* High 2 bytes of first cluster */
    unsigned short DIR_WrtTime ;      /* Written time */
    unsigned short DIR_WrtDate ;      /* Written day */
    unsigned short DIR_FstClusLO ;     /* Low 2 bytes of first cluster */
    unsigned long DIR_FileSize ;       /* Size of file(0 for directories) */
};
#pragma pack(pop)

```

Listing 6: DirEntry struct

```

00000000: 5245 5355 4d45 2d31 5254 4620 00q3 347e  RESUME-1.RTF ..4~
00000010: 4a30 8830 0000 4a33 7830 0900 f121 0000  .0.0.....0...!..

FILENAME = "RESUME-1.RTF"
SIZE = 0x0000 21f1

```

Listing 7: DirEntry example



File attributes, Starting cluster

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Ideas

FAT

Layout

Areas

BootEntry

Program

Flow

Read/Write
Sector/Cluster

DirEntry

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

Flag Value	Description
0x01	Read only
0x02	Hidden file
0x04	System file
0x08	Volume label
0x0f	Long file name
0x10	Directory
0x20	Archive

- How to calculate 1st cluster of the file
 - Combine high 2 bytes and low 2 bytes to obtain
 - (Think about it... Hint: bit operation)
- How to set 1st cluster of the file to DirEntry
 - i.e. translate an 4 bytes address,e.g. 0x12345678 to high two bytes and low two bytes



Introduction to assignment 3

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Milestones

Introduction

List

Read file

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- Three milestones in assignment 3
 - ① List the contents – think about `ls`
 - ② Reading an existing file – think about `cat/dd`
 - ③ Writing to an existing file – think about `echo`



List the contents of the root directory

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Milestones

Introduction

List

Read file

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- **Objective:** List the details of the files stored in the **root directory**
 - 1 Read Boot Entry to locate the starting cluster of root directory
 - 2 Follow the FAT to find out cluster chain of root directory
 - 3 Read file information in each cluster



Sample work flow

CSC/CEG
3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Milestones

Introduction

List

Read file

Q & A

Acknowledgement

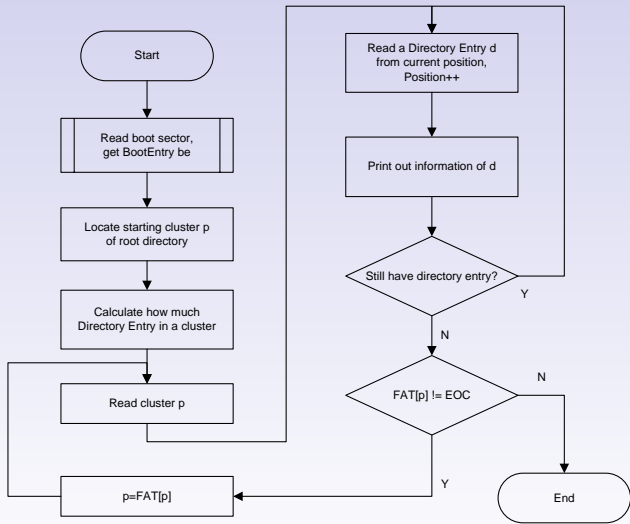


Figure: Sample work flow



Sample output

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Milestones

Introduction

List

Read file

Q & A

Acknowledgement

```
$ ./a3 <arguments>
FILENAME          FILE SIZE          STARTING CLUSTER #
-----
MAKEFILE          21                11
TEST.C            1023              12
HELLO.MP3         4194304           14

Total number of entries = 3
$ -
```

Listing 8: List content output



Reading an existing file

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- **Objective:** Read and output contents from an existing file in **root directory**.
 - ① Search the given file in directory, return fail if not found
 - ② Reads meta information of the file (size, starting cluster)
 - ③ Output file content according to **cluster chain**
- The pathname is valid characters
 - 8.3 format
 - uppercase alphabets, digits
 - \$ % ' ' - { } ~ ! # () & _ ^
- The last cluster of the file **may not be fully filled**

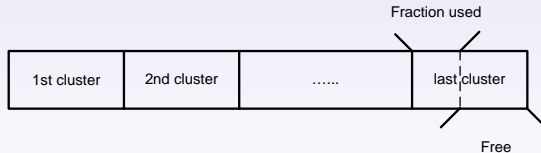


Figure: Example: Clusters occupied by a certain file



Sample work flow

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3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Milestones

Introduction

List

Read file

Q & A

Acknowledgement

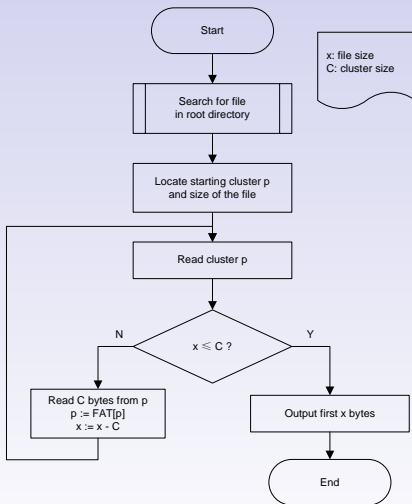


Figure: Sample work flow



Q & A Session

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Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

Thank You

Now you should be able to complete Milestone 1 & 2
- See You Next Week -



Acknowledgement

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3150
Tutorial

Outline

FAT32

Milestones

Q & A

Acknowledgement

- Some materials and pictures are from last year's tutorial notes made by *Mr. Cheong Chi Hong*
- The style of this slide is adapted from the template made by *HUANG Zheng-hua* in *Wuhan University*
- Google “vfs” to learn more about filesystem in Linux