

# DEVICE DRIVERS

BLG413E – System Programming, Practice  
Session 3

# *scull* (Simple Character Utility for Loading Localities)

- a char driver that treats a memory area as a device
- used as an example to demonstrate and test the interface between the kernel and char drivers

# Compiling scull

- **Warning:** simplified scull code under ninova is incompatible with Linux kernel versions newer than 2.6.35.

- Use “`uname -a`” to check the version of the kernel you are currently using

- Three changes are made in the code to adapt to newer versions of the Linux kernel.

```
struct file_operations scull_fops = {
    .owner =      THIS_MODULE,
    .llseek =     scull_llseek,
    .read =       scull_read,
    .write =      scull_write,
    .unlocked_ioctl = scull_ioctl,
    .open =       scull_open,
    .release =    scull_release,
};
```

*ioctl is not available after Linux kernel 2.6.36, use `unlocked_ioctl` instead*

*and signature of `scull_ioctl` is updated*

```
long scull_ioctl(struct file *filp, unsigned int cmd, unsigned long arg)
{
    int err = 0, tmp;
    int retval = 0;
```

```
/* Initialize each device. */
for (i = 0; i < scull_nr_devs; i++) {
    dev = &scull_devices[i];
    dev->quantum = scull_quantum;
    dev->qset = scull_qset;
    sema_init(&dev->sem, 1);
    devno = MKDEV(scull_major, scull_minor + i);
```

*`init_MUTEX` is not available after Linux kernel 2.6.37, use `sema_init` instead*

# Compiling scull

- **One more change is necessary for Linux kernel versions newer than 3.3.**

*<asm/system.h> is not available, use <asm/switch\_to.h> instead*

```
#include <asm/switch_to.h>    /* cli(), *_flags */
#include <asm/uaccess.h>      /* copy_to_user */
```

# Compiling scull

- **Makefile:**

```
obj-m := scull.o
```

```
all:
```

```
    make -C /lib/modules/$(shell uname -r)/build M=$(PWD) modules
```

- **Compiling:**



```
make
```

M=\$(PWD) is to build external module in the working directory





# Using scull

- when testing the scull module, it's better to become root instead of using sudo for commands:
  - `sudo su`
- **Loading:**
  - `insmod ./scull.ko`
  - `lsmod`  to see scull in the list of loaded modules
- **Getting the major number:**
  - `grep scull /proc/devices`  file displaying currently configured (and loaded) character and block devices
- **Creating the device nodes (assuming major number is 250):**
  - `mknod /dev/scull0 c 250 0`
  - `mknod /dev/scull1 c 250 1`
  - ...

# Using scull

- **Writing to the device:**
  - *echo testing > /dev/scull0*
- **Reading from the device:**
  - *cat /dev/scull0*

# Using scull

- Writing more than one quantum (size of the file is 261KB):

- `cp ../ps3.pptx /dev/scull0`

- Tracing the system calls:

- `strace cp ../ps3.pptx /dev/scull0`

```
open("../ps3.pptx", O_RDONLY|O_LARGEFILE) = 3
fstat64(3, {st_mode=S_IFREG|0770, st_size=266846, ...}) = 0
open("/dev/scull0", O_WRONLY|O_TRUNC|O_LARGEFILE) = 4
fstat64(4, {st_mode=S_IFCHR|0644, st_rdev=makedev(250, 0), ...}) = 0
fadvise64 64(3, 0, 0, POSIX_FADV_SEQUENTIAL) = 0
read(3, "PK\3\4\24\0\6\0\10\0\0\0!\0004LM9\r\2\0\0\24\21\0\0\23\0\10\2[C"... 65536) = 65536
write(4, "PK\3\4\24\0\6\0\10\0\0\0!\0004LM9\r\2\0\0\24\21\0\0\23\0\10\2[C"... 65536) = 4000
write(4, "\365\333W\245\27\33\2\275\3648\263\3547\303\354\17 a\26W*\3545\324\260\223\35\10\212&Y\37"... 61536) = 4000
write(4, "\27v\363\315RG\223\273]\337\260x\267\302\356\214\23\371nq\315E#\217Au\237\362+7\337Y"... 57536) = 4000
write(4, "Q3\r\340Vby\242\325\245\232h\177|\276\234h\3022\324+ \202\26(K\20w\7\225\231\177"... 53536) = 4000
write(4, "\260\340\277\236\303\214\301\324\245\26\305\23.;\202Y\211\24\330\263\304\5u>\33?\25Z\305\255Dl"... 49536) = 4000
write(4, ".xml.rels\204\217\301\n\3020\20D\357\202\377\20\366n\322z\20\221\246^D\360\340"... 45536) = 4000
write(4, "@y8\373\237m\267W>\231p\371\340\305z\237\226\364\241\243\316\311KM\270\t\n\311\245\245q"... 41536) = 4000
write(4, "HX<\305\241\372Q\327\370\7\346\v\270f\223\267a28<\331\37f;\203xz\322\351\37\235D"... 37536) = 4000
write(4, "|\353\316<\223\224 o\353\225\201b\30z\315\343\207\0221\16~*\367\215{\361\315\312\32S>+"... 33536) = 4000
write(4, "\B:-v<\326\344\376\230\342^K\361\263j#\vA\23\226)\221\2Wx\332-\211\360"... 29536) = 4000
write(4, "c\347\20\322\347\342z\251D\226+\264\311\n\343\6\253\324Tm\30\344\1\254W\314\7\215\35\302\356"... 25536) = 4000
write(4, "j\333\372\262tf\222\225}C<\6hJ\262M\233/\221\267\301\243\200\303\362\27\261\220\237\375\250\317"... 21536) = 4000
write(4, "\20\0\1\227\t \234\271\354\235\360\332\26\236\24ux>\362\330"\2043\217\235\347a\323{\227\242\366"... 17536) = 4000
write(4, "$\247q.\2",s\334\310\311l\272w\315\330\226\325\312\245\224)32\200@3\t\224c\266S"... 13536) = 4000
write(4, "<Yf!P\377\212z^\247\253\236Z\250\23!\310\2\2 \320P\2M6\333\335\253\376\346\305\330"... 9536) = 4000
write(4, "\270+\347\214\6\32E\240\5f[\v~<\231k\213Q\325\255\27w\352\351a\223\243E\237Z\212\177"... 5536) = 4000
write(4, "\335*u\26\353\3f\275\224\204\216\330\373\27yl\363\237\315+\326.J\271\23\200\216\334Y!\10\264"... 1536) = 1536
read(3, "\0\4@\0\4ZN\0\253\355\226+\30\335\3\1\20\0\1\20h7\0018\311\333\255_\364\16\4@"... 65536) = 65536
```

default block size  
for  
reading/writing

using 4000 byte  
sized quanta  
for writing



# Using scull

- **Writing more than the capacity of the device (15510 KB):**

- *strace cp ../intel\_manual.pdf /dev/scull0*

- **Testing with quantum size 65536:**

- *rmmmod scull*
- *insmod ./scull.ko scull\_quantum=65536*
- *strace cp ../ps3.pptx /dev/scull0*

```
open("../ps3.pptx", O_RDONLY|O_LARGEFILE) = 3
fstat64(3, {st_mode=S_IFREG|0770, st_size=266846, ...}) = 0
open("/dev/scull0", O_WRONLY|O_TRUNC|O_LARGEFILE) = 4
fstat64(4, {st_mode=S_IFCHR|0644, st_rdev=makedev(250, 0), ...}) = 0
fadvise64_64(3, 0, 0, POSIX_FADV_SEQUENTIAL) = 0
read(3, "PK\3\4\24\0\6\0\10\0\0\0!\0004LM9\r\2\0\0\24\21\0\0\23\0\10\2[C"... , 65536) = 65536
write(4, "PK\3\4\24\0\6\0\10\0\0\0!\0004LM9\r\2\0\0\24\21\0\0\23\0\10\2[C"... , 65536) = 65536
read(3, "\0\4\0\0\4ZN\0\253\355\226+\30\335\3\1\20\0\1\20h7\0018\311\333\255 \364\16\4@"... , 65536) = 65536
write(4, "\0\4\0\0\4ZN\0\253\355\226+\30\335\3\1\20\0\1\20h7\0018\311\333\255 \364\16\4@"... , 65536) = 65536
read(3, "\314\207\240\202\344\316\207\346\n\317\207\344\265\206\356\276t\315\27253\225\232\334\344\200\v\7\216\234\17\303"... , 65536) = 65536
write(4, "\314\207\240\202\344\316\207\346\n\317\207\344\265\206\356\276t\315\27253\225\232\334\344\200\v\7\216\234\17\303"... , 65536) = 65536
read(3, "\237|\343\311=\333yuv\233w\331d\213f4\211\351\205\260:\213\362\34\351\31\334\337z2)Q"... , 65536) = 65536
write(4, "\237|\343\311=\333yuv\233w\331d\213f4\211\351\205\260:\213\362\34\351\31\334\337z2)Q"... , 65536) = 65536
read(3, "a9\230\3150oPCL\372,%\271\232\v\3244\220\336\0325\221:0d\341\204\24nG\360\311"... , 65536) = 4702
write(4, "a9\230\3150oPCL\372,%\271\232\v\3244\220\336\0325\221:0d\341\204\24nG\360\311"... , 4702) = 4702
read(3, "", 65536) = 0
close(4) = 0
close(3) = 0
```

Each block is written in a single write process when quantum size is the same with the block size.

# References

- Corbet, J., Rubini, A., & Kroah-Hartman, G. (2005). Chapter 3: Char Drivers. In *Linux Device Drivers, Third Edition* (pp. 42-72). O'Reilly.