

**Review Questions - File System Interface, Implementation, and
Internals (Chapters 13, 14, and 15)**
Operating Systems SFWRENG 3SH3 Term 2, Winter 2023
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1. Describe the steps taken by a file system to create a file. Your solution should state all the data structures updated in the process.
2. Describe the steps taken by a file system to open a file. Your solution should state all the data structures updated in the process.
3. What problems could occur if a system allowed a file system to be mounted simultaneously at more than one location?
4. Fragmentation on a storage device can be eliminated by recompaction of the information. However, recompact and relocation of files are often avoided. Why?
5. Consider a file currently consisting of 100 (0-99) blocks. Assume that the file control block (and the index block, in the case of indexed allocation) is already in memory. **Calculate how many disk I/O operations are required for contiguous, linked, and indexed** (single-level) allocation strategies, if, for one block, the following conditions hold. In the contiguous-allocation case, assume that there is no room to grow at the beginning but there is room to grow at the end. Also assume that the block information to be added is stored in memory.
 - a. The block is added at the beginning.
 - b. The block is added in the middle.
 - c. The block is added at the end.
 - d. The block is removed from the beginning.
 - e. The block is removed from the middle (the middle block considered here is the 50th block).
 - f. The block is removed from the end.
6. Consider a file system on a disk that has both logical and physical block sizes of 512 bytes. Assume that the information about each file is already in memory. For each of the three allocation strategies (contiguous, linked, and indexed), answer the following questions: If we are currently at logical block 10 (the last block

accessed was block 10) and want to access logical block 4, how many physical blocks must be read from the disk?

7. Consider a file system that uses Inodes to represent files. Disk blocks are 8-KB in size and a pointer to a disk block requires 4 bytes. This file system has 12 direct disk blocks, plus single, double, and triple indirect disk blocks. What is the maximum size of a file that can be stored in this file system?
8. Consider a system where free space is kept in a free-space list.
 - a. Suppose that the pointer to the free-space list is lost. Can the system reconstruct the free-space list? Explain your answer.
 - b. Suggest a scheme to ensure that the pointer is never lost as a result of memory failure.
9. Some file systems allow disk storage to be allocated at different levels of granularity. For instance, a file system could allocate 4 KB of disk space as a single 4-KB block or as eight 512-byte blocks. How could we take advantage of this flexibility to improve performance? What modifications would have to be made to the free-space management scheme in order to support this feature?
10. What access rights does the command: `chmod 531 test.txt`, specify on the file `test.txt`?