CH5: Connection Control Studying stty

Objectives

Ideas and Skills

- Similarities between files and devices
- Differences between files and devices
- Attributes of connections
- Race conditions and atomic operations
- Controlling device drivers
- Streams

System Calls and Functions

- fcntl, ioctl
- tcsetattr, tcgetattri

Commands

- stty
- write

Programming for Devices

- A computer has sources of data other than files and directories: modems, printers, scanners, mice, terminals, etc.
- Let's look at similarities and differences between files and devices.
- Let's see how to use those ideas to mange device connections.

Programming for Devices

- The chapter project is to write a version of the command stty.
- stty allows users to examine and modify the settings that control the connection to the keyboard and screen.

Devices are Just Like Files

- To Unix, sound cards, terminals, mice, and disk files are the same sort of object.
- Every device is treated as a file on a Unix system.
- Devices have file names, inode numbers, owners, a set of permission bits, and a lastmodified time, etc.

Devices are Just Like Files

 Much of what we've talked about regarding files applies to terminals and other devices.

Devices have file names

- Every device attached to a Unix machine has a file name.
- Files that represent devices are in the /dev directory.
- Here's a partial list of devices on my machine:

```
hank@netbook:~$ ls -C /dev |
                             head -5
autofs
                                      sda3
                                                tty30 tty61
                                                                  ttyS5
                 mei
block
                                                tty31 tty62
                                                                  ttyS6
                                      sda4
                 mem
                                                tty32 tty63
                                                                  ttvS7
                 net
                                      sq0
btrfs-control
                 network latency
                                                                  ttvs8
                                      shm
                                                       ttv7
                 network_throughput
                                      snapshot
                                                ttv34
                                                       ttv8
                                                                  ttvs9
hank@netbook:~$
```

Devices have file names

- There are several types of devices shown.
- sda* files are partitions on serial drives.
- tty* files are terminals.
- Programs get keystrokes by reading those files and send data to terminal screens by writing to those files.

Devices have file names

- A process can play a sound by writing bytes to the device file.
- A process can open /dev/mouse to read mouse clicks and changes in position.

Devices and System Calls

- Additionally, devices support all the filerelated system calls: open, read, write, lseek, close, and, stat.
- For example, to read from a tape drive:

```
int fd;

fd = open("/dev/tape", O_RDONLY);  // connect to tape drive
 lseek(fd, (long)4096, SEEK_SET);  // fast forward 4096 bytes
 n = read(fd, buf, buflen);  // read data from tape
 close(fd);  // disconnect
```

 The same system calls for disk files work for devices. No other way to interact with them.

Some devices don't support all file operations

- This makes sense, when a mouse moves and clicks it sends bytes to the system.
- A program can read these bytes, but what does it mean to write to a mouse?
- It's nonsensical, so /dev/mouse doesn't support the write system call.

- Much user input comes from terminals.
- Files tty* represent terminals.
- A terminal is anything that acts like a classic keyboard and display unit.
- telnet or ssh connections behave like terminals

- The essential components of a terminal:
 - --a source of character input from the user
 - --a display unit for output to the user.
 - could be a monitor, generate braille, or even speech.
- The tty command tells us the name of the file that represents our terminal.

Let's play with it...

```
hank@netbook:~$ ttv
/dev/pts/0
hank@netbook:~$ cp whoson /dev/pts/0
            2015-07-06 23:56 (:0)
hank
        :0
        pts/0 2015-07-10 16:49 (:0)
hank
hank@netbook:~$ who > /dev/pts/0
hank
                 2015-07-13 21:16 (:0)
        pts/0
                    2015-07-14 21:48 (:0)
hank
hank@netbook:~$ ls -li /dev/pts/0
3 crw--w---- 1 hank tty 136, 0 Jul 14 2015 /dev/pts/0
hank@netbook:~$
```

 tty says my terminal is attached to the file called /dev/pts/0.

 We can use any file commands and operations with that file: cp, output redirection with >, mv, ln, rm, cat, ls, etc.

Properties of Device Files

- Devices files have most disk file properties.
- The above Is output shows /dev/pts/o has inode 3, permission bits rw--w---, 1 link, owner hank, group tty, last modified Jul 14, 2015.
- The file type c indicates the file is really a device that transfers character by character.
- File size looks weird, there is an expression 136, 0 instead of number of bytes. What?

Device Files and File Size

- A device file is a connection, not a container like a disk file.
- The inode of a a device file doesn't store a file size and storage list, it stores a pointer.
- This pointer points to a subroutine in the kernel.
- Subroutines in the kernel that get data in and out of a device is called a device driver.

Device Files and File Size

- In the /dev/pts/0 example, 136 and 0 are called the <u>major number</u> and the <u>minor</u> <u>number</u> of the device.
- The major number specifies which subroutine handles the actual device.
- The minor number is passed to this subroutine.

Device Files and Permission Bits

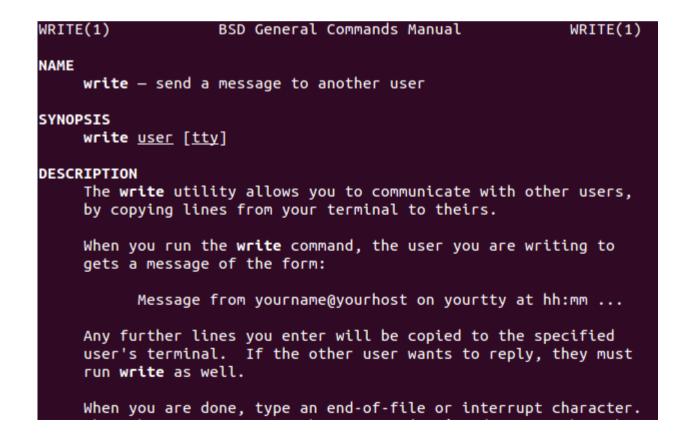
- Write permission means being able to write data to a device.
- In the above example, the owner of the file /dev/tty/0 is allowed to read and write from the terminal.
- The group is allowed to write to the terminal.
- Everyone else can't do anything.

Device Files and Permission Bits

- If users other than the owner of the file can read /dev/pts/0, other people can read characters typed at that keyboard. (keylogger anyone?)
- However, writing to other people's terminals is the purpose of the write command.

Writing write

 Before instant messaging and chat rooms, users chatted with friends at other terminals with the write command.



Writing write

- Let's look at the sample code, write0.c.
- It doesn't send the "Message from..." intro and requires the file name for the terminal, not the other person's user name.
- Take a look at the special features required to connect your keyboard to someone else's screen: there are none.
- It just writes lines from one file to another.

Device Files and Inodes

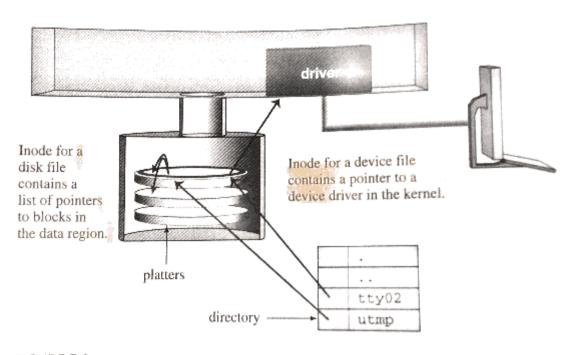


FIGURE 5.1

Inode points to data blocks or to driver code.

Device Files and Inodes

- Nothing in a directory tells you which names represent disk files and which names represent devices.
- The distinction is at the inode level.
- inodes can be a disk-file inode or a devicefile inode.

Device Files and Inodes

- Disk-file inodes have pointers to data holding disk blocks.
- Device-file inodes have a pointer into a table of kernel subroutines.
- The major number tells where to find code that gets data from the device.

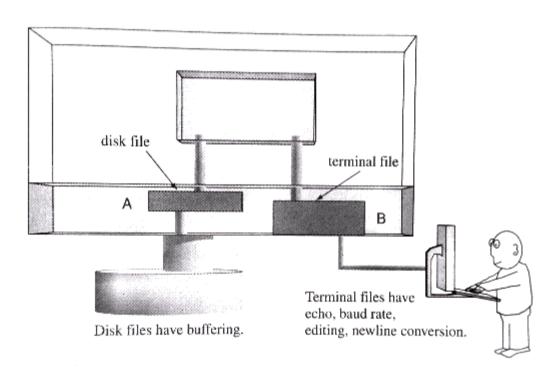


FIGURE 5.2

A process with two file descriptors.

- A to a disk file is different than a connection to a terminal.
- Connections to disk files involve kernel buffers, which allows data to be transferred in undetermined intervals.
- Connections to terminals are different: processes want data sent to terminals fast.

- Terminal connections also have properties.
- Serial connections have baud rate, parity, stop bits.
- Typed characters usually appear on the screen, but sometimes not.
- What if you type your password and the characters aren't echoed on the screen?

- Echoing of characters is not the keyboard, not the program, it's an attribute of the connection.
- Disk files don't have these attributes.

Attributes of Disk Connections

Attribute 1: Buffering

- A file descriptor can be depicted as two channels connected by a processing unit.
- The processing unit is kernel code and does buffering and other tasks.
- Inside the box are control variables that determine which steps the file descriptor performs.

Attribute 1: Buffering

Here's what it looks like....

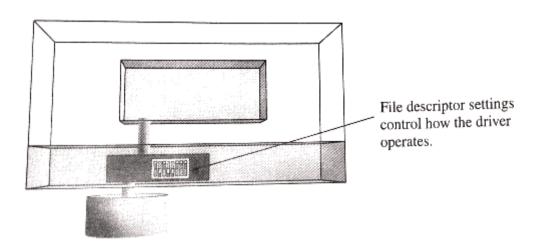
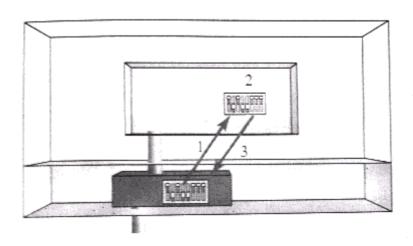


FIGURE 5.3

A processing unit in a data stream.

Attribute 1: Buffering

- Change the file descriptor action by changing those variables.
- For example, turn off disk buffering with this 3-step procedure:



To change driver settings:

- 1. Get settings,
- 2, modify them
- send them back.

FIGURE 5.4

Modifying the operation of a file descriptor.

Here's the code for the three steps:

 Attributes of a file descriptor are coded as bits in an integer.

• The *fcntl* system call lets you control a file descriptor by reading/writing that integer:

	fcntl
PURPOSE	Control file descriptors
INCLUDE	<pre>#include <fcntl.h> #include <unistd.h> #include <sys types.h=""></sys></unistd.h></fcntl.h></pre>
USAGE	<pre>int result = fcntl(int fd, int cmd); int result = fcntl(int fd, int cmd, long arg); int result = fcntl(int fd, int cmd, struct flock *lockp);</pre>
ARGS	fd the file descriptor to control cmd the operation to perform arg arguments to the operation lock lock information
RETURNS	-1 if error other depends on operation

- fcntl performs operation cmd on the open file specified by fd.
- arg represents an argument used by cmd.
- In the sample code, F_GETFL operation gets the current set of bits (flags).
- s stores the flagset.
- bitwise or (|=) turns on the O_SYNC bit

- This bit tells kernel write calls should return only when the bytes are written to the actual hardware, rather than the default action of returning when bytes are copied to the kernel buffer.
- We then send the revised settings back to the kernel.
- Specify the F_SETFL operation and pass the revised settings as argument 3.

- This general procedure is how Unix reads and modifies data connection attributes.
- In summary: read settings, change settings, send settings back to kernel.

- Auto-append mode is another file descriptor attribute.
- Useful for files written to by several processes at the same time.
- Consider the wtmp logfile.
- wtmp stores the login/logout history.
- When user logs in, the login program adds a record to the end of wtmp.

- When a user logs out, the system adds a log-out record at the end of wtmp.
- Can't we just use Iseek to add to the end? Consider...

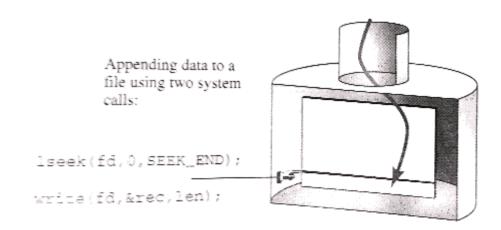


FIGURE 5.5
Appending with lseek and write.

- Iseek sets the current position to end, then write adds the record.
- What if two people log in at the same time?

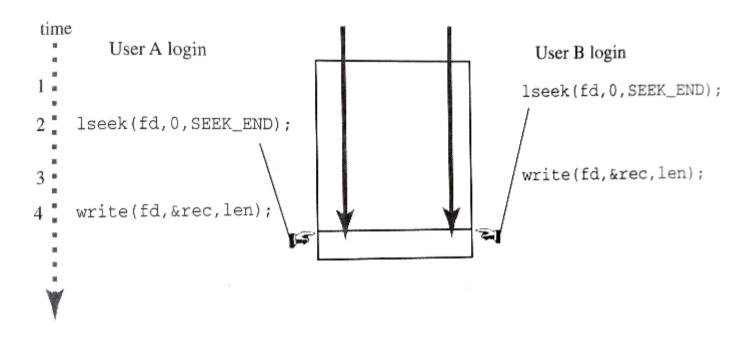


FIGURE 5.6

Interleaved 1seek and write = chaos.

- wtmp is in the middle, time's arrow is on the left, and four time increments are shown
- Code for the login for user A is shown on the left, code for user B on the right.
- Now, Unix is a time-sharing system and this procedure requires two separate steps: Iseek and write.

- Watch the horror unfold in slow motion:
 - time 1: B's login process seeks to end of file
 - time 2: B's time slice ends, A's login process seeks to end of file
 - time 3: A's slice ends, B's login process writes to record
 - time 4: B's slice ends, A's login process writes to record

- So, B's login record is lost, overwritten by A's login process.
- This is known as a race condition.
- How can this be avoided?
- Lots of ways, and race conditions are a critical problem.

- For this case, the kernel provides autoappend mode.
- Setting the O_APPEND bit for a file descriptor, each call to write automatically includes Iseek to the end of the file.

- Atomic operations: this important term race condition is related to another important term, <u>atomic operation</u>.
- Calls to *Iseek* and *write* are separate system calls: the kernel can interrupt the process between them.

- With O_APPEND, the kernel combines Iseek and write into an atomic operation.
- The two are joined into one indivisible unit.

Controlling File Descriptors with open

- There are several more attributes for a file descriptor than O_SYNC and O_APPEND.
- See man page for fcntl for a list.
- fcntl isn't the only way to set these attributes.
- They can be set when you open the file using the open system call.

Controlling File Descriptors with open

An example:

```
4 fd = open(WTMP_FILE, O_WRONLY|O_APPEND|O_SYNC);
```

This opens the wtmp file for writing with O_APPEND and O_SYNC bits turned on.

Another example:

```
fd = creat(filename, permission_bits);

fd = open(filename, O_CREAT|O_TRUNC|O_WRONLY, permission_bits;
```

These are the same.

Controlling File Descriptors with open

Other flags open supports:

O_CREAT Create the file if it doesn't exist

O_TRUNC If file exist, truncate to length 0

O_EXCL Intended to prevent two processes from

creating the same file. If the named file already exists and O_CREAT is set, returns -1.

Summary of Disk Connections

- Kernel transfers data between disks and processes.
- Code in the kernel that does this has many options.
- A program can use open and fcntl to control the details of these transfers.

Summary of Disk Connections

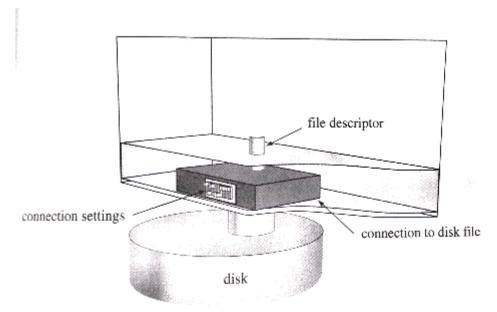


FIGURE 5.7
Connections to files have settings.

Attributes of Terminal Connections

- open creates a connection between a process and a terminal.
- Can use getchar and putchar to transfer bytes between device and process.

The data stream abstraction:

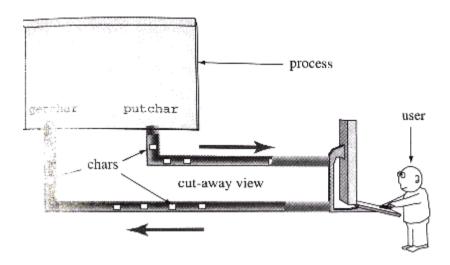


FIGURE 5.8

The illusion of a simple, direct connection.

 A simple experiment shows the model incomplete:

 Processes characters one by one, reading a char then printing a count, the char itself, and its internal code. Compile and run, we get something like:

```
A
char 0 is A code 65
G
char 1 is G code 71
T
char 2 is T code 84
S
char 3 is S code 83
Q
```

- If character codes flowed directly from keyboard to getchar, we would see a response after each character.
- Instead, we only see the characters after hitting enter.
- Input appears buffered.

- Another thing, Return key usually sends ASCII 13, but we see ASCII 10.
- The carriage return character is replaced by the code for line feed or newline.
- One more thing, listchars sends a newline at end of each string.
- The code tells the cursor to go down one line.

- It doesn't tell it to go to the left margin, though.
- ASCII 13 tells the cursor to return to the left margin.
- This program shows there must be a processing layer somewhere in the middle of the file descriptor.

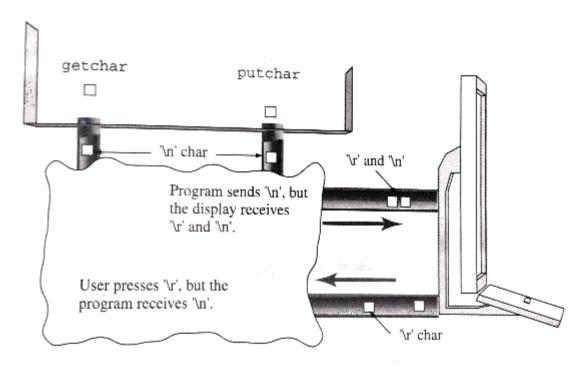


FIGURE 5.9

Kernel processes terminal data.

- This example shows 3 sorts of processing:
 - 1. The process receives no data until user hits Return.
 - 2. The user presses Return (ASCII 13), process sees newline (ASCII 10).
 - 3. Process sends newline, terminal receives Return-Newline pair

The Terminal Driver

 Here's what a connection between a terminal and a process looks like:

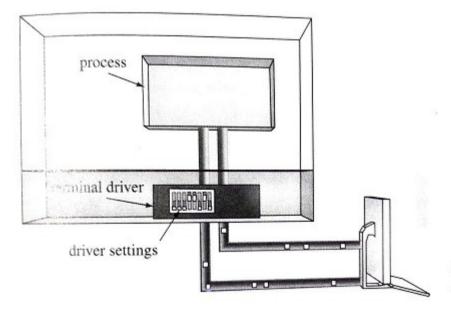


FIGURE 5.10

The terminal driver is part of the kernel.

The Terminal Driver

- The collection of kernel subroutines that process data moving between a process and the external device is the *terminal* driver aka tty driver.
- The driver has a lot of settings that control its operation.
- A process can read, modify, and reset these.

- stty lets users read and change settings in the terminal driver.
- example

```
stalica@trig:~
[stalica@trig ~]$ stty
speed 38400 baud; line = 0;
-brkint -imaxbel
[stalica@trig ~]$ sttv -a
speed 38400 baud; rows 24; columns 80; line = 0;
intr = ^C;    quit = ^\;    erase = ^?;    kill = ^U;    eof = ^D;    eol = <undef>;
eol2 = <undef>; swtch = <undef>; start = ^Q; stop = ^S; susp = ^Z; rprnt = ^R;
werase = ^{\circ}W; lnext = ^{\circ}V; flush = ^{\circ}O; min = 1; time = 0;
-parenb -parodd cs8 -hupcl -cstopb cread -clocal -crtscts -cdtrdsr
-ignbrk -brkint -ignpar -parmrk -inpck -istrip -inlcr -igncr icrnl ixon -ixoff
-iuclc -ixany -imaxbel -iutf8
opost -olcuc -ocrnl onlcr -onocr -onlret -ofill -ofdel n10 cr0 tab0 bs0 vt0 ff0
isig icanon iexten echo echoe echok -echonl -noflsh -xcase -tostop -echoprt
echoctl echoke
[stalica@trig ~]$
```

- The -all option lists many more settings.
- Some are variables with values, some are boolean.
- Some settings such as icrnl, -olcuc, and, onlcr are values that are on or off.
- icrnl means Input: convert Carriage Return to New Line

- The sign means turn off the operation:
- -olcuc means disable action for Output: convert LowerCase to UpperCase.

Using stty to Change Driver Settings
 Some samples:

\$ stty erase x

\$ stty -echo

\$ stty erase @ echo

make 'X' erase key

type invisibly

multiple requests

Four categories of tty driver operations:

<u>Input</u>	What the driver does with chars coming from the terminal
<u>Output</u>	What the driver does with chars going to the terminal.

<u>Control</u> how characters are represented : number of bits, parity, stop bits, etc

Local what the driver does while chars are inside the driver

- Input processing could include converting cases, stripping off the high bit, converting carriage returns to new lines.
- Output processing could include replacing tabs with spaces, converting new lines to carriage returns, converting cases.
- Control settings include even parity, odd parity, and number of stop bits.

- Local processing includes echoing keystrokes back to the user and buffering input.
- The driver also tracks keystrokes with special meanings.
 - man for *stty* lists most of the settings and control characters.

- Changing settings similar to how you change settings for a disk file connection:
 - 1. Get the driver attributes
 - 2. Modify the attributes you need to change
 - 3. Send them back to the driver.

Sample code:

```
// The general procedure :
    // don't forget your includes
    #include <termios.h>
 5
 6
    // create a variable to hold the settings :
    struct termios settings;
 8
 9
10
    // get the settings :
    tcgetattr(fd, &settings);
11
12
    /* test, set, or clear bits */
13
14
15
    // send them back to the kernel for updating :
    tcsetattr(fd, how, &settings);
16
17
```

 The library functions tcsetattr and tcgetattr provide access to the terminal driver. Both transfer settings in a struct termios.

tcgetattr

PURPOSE

Read attributes from tty driver

INCLUDE

#include <termios.h>

#include <unistd.h>

USAGE

int result = tcgetattr(int fd, struct termios* info);

ARGS

fd file descriptor connected to a terminal

info pointer to a struct termios

RETURNS

-1 if error

0 if success

 tcgetattr copies current settings from the terminal driver associated to the file fd into struct pointed to by info.

		tcsetattr	
PURPOSE	Set attril	butes in the tty driver	
INCLUDE	#include <termios.h> #include <unistd.h></unistd.h></termios.h>		
USAGE	int result = tcsetattr(int fd, int when,struct termios* info);		
ARGS	fd info when	file descriptor connected to a terminal pointer to a struct termios when to change the settings	
RETURNS	-1 0	if error if success	

- *tcsetattr* copies driver settings from the struct pointed to by *info* to the terminal driver associated to the open file *fd*.
- when tells tcsetattr when to update the driver settings.

Valid inputs for the when parameter :

TCSANOW

Update settings immediately.

TCSADRAIN

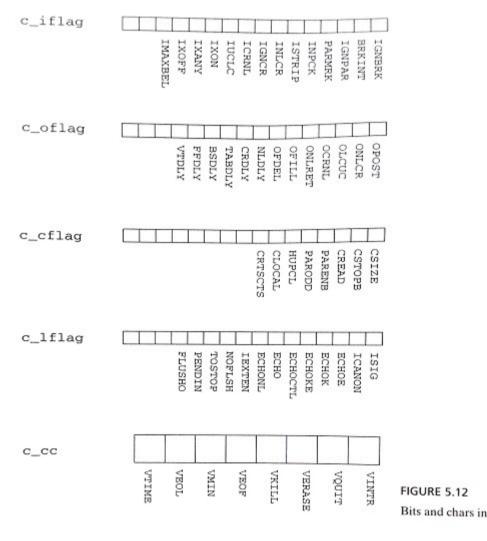
Wait until the output already queued in the driver has been transmitted to the terminal, then update the driver.

TCSAFLUSH

- 1. Wait until all output already queued in the driver has been transmitted.
- 2. Flush all queued input data.
- 3. Make the changes.

 The struct termios data type contains several flagsets and an array of control characters. All Unix versions include

The individual bits in each flagset:



See

man 2 termios

for complete details.

- The first four members depicted are flagsets.
- Each flagset contains bits for operations in that group.
- For example, the c_iflag member contains a bit for the value INLCR.
- c_cflag contains a bit for odd parity, PARODD.

- These masks are all defined in termios.h.
- When reading values into a struct termios, all the values can be examined and modifed.
- The c_cc member is the array of control characters.
- Keystrokes that perform control functions are stored in here.

- Each position in the array is defined by a constant in termios.h.
- For example, if a struct termios named attribs is defined, then

```
attribs.c_cc[VERASE] = '\b'
```

tells the driver to treat backspace as the erase character.

Programming the Terminal Driver: Bit Operations

- Each attribute is a bit in one of the flagsets.
- Masks for the attributes are defined in termios.h.
- To test the attribute, you mask the flagset with the mask for that bit.
- To enable, you turn on the bit; to disable, you turn it off.

Programming the Terminal Driver: Bit Operations

Action Code

test a bit if(flagset & MASK)...

set a bit flagset |= MASK

clear a bit Flagset &= ~MASK

- Let's take a look at echostate.c, a program to show the state of the echo bit.
- This program reads terminal attributes for file descriptor 0
- This the file descriptor for standard input, usually attached to the keyboard.

Sample

- This shows the command stty -echo disables keystroke echoing in the driver.
- Type two more commands, after that, but hey don't show on the screen, but the output does.

- Let's look at another example program, setecho.c.
- This program turns keyboard echo on or off.
- If the command line argument begins with "y", the echo flag for the terminal is turned on.
- Otherwise, it's turned off.

Sample Run:

```
stalica@trig:~

[stalica@trig ~]$ echostate; setecho n; echostate; stty echo
echo is on, since its bit is 1
echo is off, since its bit is 0
[stalica@trig ~]$ stty -echo; echostate; setecho y; setecho n
echo is off, since its bit is 0
[stalica@trig ~]$

[stalica@trig ~]$
```

- On the first line, we used setecho to turn off echoing.
- Then, we used stty to turn it back on.
- Driver and driver settings are stored in the kernel, not the process.
- One process can change driver settings, and a different one can read or change them.

- One more example, let's look at showtty.c.
- We can leverage the previous program techniques to build a complete stty version.
- The tty driver contains 3 sorts of settings: special characters, numerical values, and bits.
- showtty contains functions to display each type.

- showtty prints the current state, with some additional text, of attributes in the driver.
- This sample program uses a table of structs to simplify the code.
- A single function, show_flagset is passed an integer and a set of driver flags.

 show_flagset loops through all the bits, testing and displaying their statuses.

```
stalica@trig:~
[stalica@trig ~]$ ./showtty
the baud rate is Fast
The erase character is ascii 127, Ctrl-
The line kill character is ascii 21, Ctrl-U
Ignore break condition is OFF
Signal interrupt on break is OFF
Ignore chars with parity errors is OFF
Mark parity errors is OFF
Enable input parity check is OFF
Strip character is OFF
Map NL to CR on iput is OFF
Ignore CR is OFF
Map CR to NL on input is ON
Enable start/stop output control is ON
Enable start/stop input control is OFF
 Enable signals is ON
 Canonical input ( erase and kill) is ON
 Enable echo is ON
 Echo ERASE as BS-SPACE-BS is ON
 Echo KILL by starting new line is ON
[stalica@trig ~]$
```

Summary of Terminal Connections

- Terminals are devices human beings use to communicate with processes.
- They have a keyboard a process reads characters from and a display the process sends characters to.
- Terminals are devices, so they appear as special files, usually in *Idev*.

Summary of Terminal Connections

- Transfer and processing of data between the terminal and a process is handled by the terminal driver.
- The terminal driver is a part of the kernel.
- Kernel code provides buffering, editing, and data conversion.
- Programs can examine and modify the settings by calling tcgetattr and tcsetattr.

Programming Other Devices: *ioctl*

- Connections to other types of devices have other types of settings different than a terminal or disk file.
- Every device file will support the ioctl system call.
- See man 4 ioctl for an example of using ioctl for SCSI drives

Summary

Main Ideas

summary

MAIN IDEAS

- The kernel transfers data between processes and things in the outside world. Things
 in the outside world include disk files, terminals, and peripheral devices (such as
 printers, tape drives, sound cards, and mice). Connections to disk files and connections to devices have similarities and differences.
- Disk files and device files have names, properties, and permission bits. Standard file
 system calls, open, read, write, close, and lseek, may be used for any file or device.
 File permission bits control access to devices the same way they control access to
 disk files.
- Connections to disk files differ from connections to device files in the way they
 process and transfer data. Kernel code that manages connections to a device is
 called a device driver. Processes can read and change settings in a device driver by
 using fcntl and ioctl.
- Connections to terminals are so important that special functions togetattr and tosetattr are provided for controlling terminal drivers.
- The Unix command stty gives the user access to the togetattr and tosetattr functions.