What is Inode in Linux ?

- Inode is the abbreviation for index node

- Inodes in Linux are unique identifiers that describe files and directories within a filesystem.

- every file and directory in a filesystem is allocated an inode, which is identified by an integer known as "inode number".

Metadata stored in an inode

Inodes store metadata such as:

- File type
- File size
- Owner ID
- Group ID
- Read, write and execute permissions
- Last access time
- Last change time
- Last modification time

Inode usage issues and best practices

An excessive inode usage can lead to issues when creating new files and directories. Some of the issues users may encounter when the server runs out of inodes are:

- Data loss.
- Server restart.
- Application crash.
- Scheduled tasks not running.

So, it is recommended to keep inode usage low by deleting:

- Unnecessary files and directories.
- Cache files.
- Old email files.
- Temporary files.