

Lab 11 Fuse

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1. What is a filesystem?

A filesystem is the piece of software that is in charge of storing, organizing and generally taking care of data represented as files and directories.

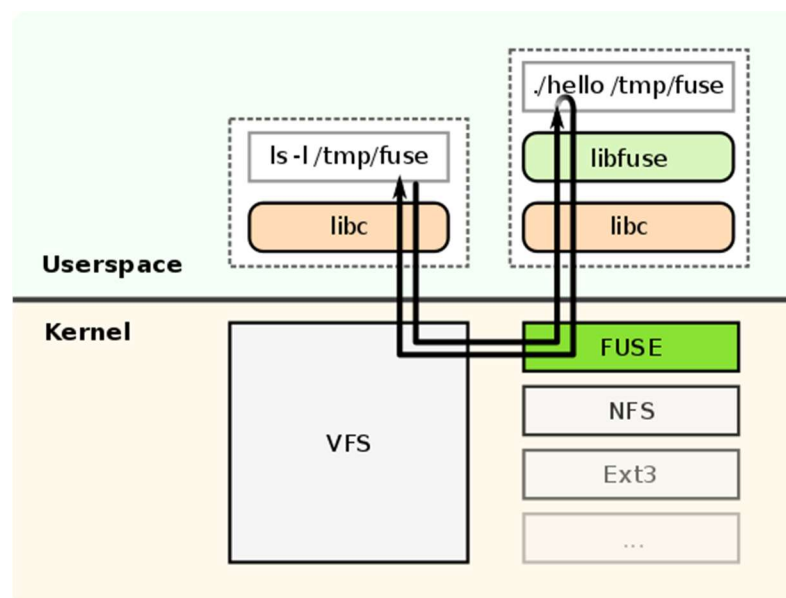
2. How is the Linux VFS working?

A virtual file system (VFS) or virtual filesystem switch is an abstract layer on top of a more concrete file system. The purpose of a VFS is to allow client applications to access different types of concrete file systems in a uniform way. A VFS specifies an interface (or a "contract") between the kernel and a concrete file system. Therefore, it is easy to add support for new file system types to the kernel simply by fulfilling the contract.

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virtual_file_system

3. What is FUSE, and how does it interact with the VFS? Can you sketch it quickly to make it clearer?

Fuse is short for "Filesystem in Userspace", which is a software interface for Unix and Unix-like computer operating that lets non-privileged users create their own file systems without editing kernel code.



Request from userspace to list files (`ls -l /tmp/fuse`) gets redirected by the Kernel through VFS to FUSE. FUSE then executes the registered handler program (`./hello`) and passes it the request (`ls -l /tmp/fuse`). The handler program returns a response back to FUSE which is then redirected to the userspace program that originally made the request.

Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filesystem_in_Userspace