SYSTEM PROGRAMMING

WEEK 3: FILES AND DIRECTORIES

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03-filedirs

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introduction

Additional features of the file system and the properties of a file

- stat function and its structure
- o modifying the attributes: Owner, Permissions, etc.
- Unix file system structure and symbolic links
- functions that operate on directories



stat and Related Functions

- stat: returns a structure of information about the file at pathname
- fstat: obtains information about the file that is already open on the descriptor fd
- lstat: returns info about the symbolic link, not the file referenced by the symbolic link
- fstatat returns the file statistics for a pathname relative to an open directory represented by the fd



Definition of the stat Structure

```
struct stat {
  mode_t st_mode; /* file type & mode (permissions) */
  ino_t st_ino; /* i-node number (serial number) */
  dev_t st_dev; /* device number (file system) */
  dev_t st_rdev; /* device number for special files */
  nlink_t st_nlink; /* number of links */
  uid_t st_uid; /* user ID of owner */
  gid_t st_gid; /* group ID of owner */
  off_t st_size; /* size in bytes, for regular files */
  struct timespec st atim: /* time of last access */
  struct timespec st mtim: /* time of last modification */
  struct timespec st ctim: /* time of last file status change */
  blksize t st blksize: /* best I/O block size */
  blkcnt_t st_blocks; /* number of disk blocks allocated */
};
```

Note that most members of the stat structure are specified by a *primitive system data type* (see Section 2.8, header <sys/types.h>)



File Types

Everything is a file in UNIX. There are

- Regular file: The most common type, and there is no disctiction whether the data is text or binary. Application is responsible for interpreting
- Directory file: A file that contains the name of other files and pointers to information on these files. Any process can read, only kernel can write.
- Block sepcial file: A type of file providing buffered I/O access in fixed-size units to devices such as disk drives
- Character special file: A type of file providing unbuffered I/O access in variable-sized units to devices
- FIFO: A Type of file used for communication between processes
- O Socket: A type of file used for network communication between processes
- O Symbolic Link: A type of file that points to another file



File Types Cnt'd

The type of a file is encoded in the st_mode member of the stat structure

```
struct stat st;
if (S_ISREG(st.st_mode));
   printf("Regular File\n");
```

Macro	Type of file
S_ISREG()	regular file
S_ISDIR()	directory file
S_ISCHR()	character special file
S_ISBLK()	block special file
S_ISFIFO()	pipe or FIFO
S_ISLNK()	symbolic link
S_ISSOCK()	socket

Table: File type macros in <sys/stat.h>



File Types Cnt'd

First, let's review ./codes/myls.c

```
DIR *dp;
       struct dirent *dirp:
      if (argc != 2) {
         fprintf(stderr, "usage: %s dir_name\n", argv[0]);
         exit(1);
       if ((dp = opendir(argv[1])) == NULL ) {
         fprintf(stderr, "can't open '%s'\n", argv[1]);
10
         exit(1);
11
12
13
      while ((dirp = readdir(dp)) != NULL )
14
         printf("%s\t", dirp->d_name);
15
16
      closedir(dp);
17
       return(0);
18
19
```

Let's improve the code (myls.c, Fig. 4.3)

The code at the moment does not show file types.

Make changes to the code such that it prints out the file types.

Use Fig. 4.3 as reference.



ATTRIBUTES

Set-User-ID and Set-Group-ID

Every process has six or more IDs associated with it

real user ID real group ID	who we really are	
effective group ID		
effective group ID	used for file accessed permission checks	
supplimentary group IDs		
saved set-user-ID	saved by exec function	
saved set-group-ID	Saved by exectunicion	

Table: User IDs and group IDs associated with each process

Every file has an owner and a group owner. The owner is specified by the st_uid member of the stat structure; the group owner, by the st_gid member.



File Access Permissions

st_mode mask	Meaning
S_IRUSR	user-read
S_IWUSR	user-write
S_IXUS	user-excute
S_IRGRP	group-read
S_IWGRP	group-write
S_IXGRP	group-excute
S_IROTH	other-read
S_IWOTH	other-write
S_IXOTH	other-excute
TO 1 1 TO 1 OIL	

Table: The nine file access permission bits from <sys/stat.h>

- To open a file, need execute permission on each directory component of the path
- To open a file with 0_RDONLY or 0_RDWR, need read permission
 - To open a file with 0_ WRONLY or 0_RDWR, need write permission
 - To use 0_TRUNC, must have write permission
 - To create a new file, must have write+execute permission for the directory
 - To delete a file, need write+execute on directory, file doesn't matter To execute a file (via exec family), need execute permission

access and faccessat Function

When we open a file, the kernel performs its access tests based on the effective user and group IDs

```
#include <unistd.h>
int access(const char *pathname, int mode);
int faccessat(int fd, const char *pathname, int mode, int flag);
\\ Both return: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

Tests file accessibility on the basis of the *real* uid and gid. It is useful when a process is running as someone else, using either the set-user-ID or set-group-ID feature

R_OK test for read permission
W_OK test for write permission
X_OK test for execute permission
F_OK test for existence of file



access Function Example

Let's review codes/access.c

```
if (argc != 2) {
    fprintf(stderr, "%s: Usage: %s filename\n", argv[0], argv[0]);
    exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
}

if (access(argv[1], R_OK) < 0)
    printf("access error for %s\n", argv[1]);

else
    printf("access OK for %s\n", argv[1]);

if (open(argv[1], O_RDONLY) < 0)
    printf("open error for %s\n", argv[1]);

else
    printf("open for reading OK: %s\n", argv[1]);

exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);</pre>
```



10 11 12

14

15 16

17 18

access Function Example

```
The steps are as follows
 cd codes/; make access
 ls -l access
 ls -l /etc/shadow
 ./access /etc/shadow
 su chown root access
 chmod u+s access
 ls -l access
 ./access /etc/shadow
 exit
 access /etc/shadow
```



Order of Permission Tests

Which permission set to use is determined (in order listed):

- 1. If effective-uid == 0 (the superuser), grant access
- 2. If effective-uid == st_uid (the owner ID)
 - 2.1 if appropriate user permission bit is set, grant access (user permissions are RWX)
 - 2.2 else, deny access
- 3. If effective-gid == st_gid (the group ID)
 - 3.1 if appropriate group permission bit is set, grant access
 - 3.2 else, deny access
- 4. If appropriate other permission bit is set, grant access, else deny access



umask Function

Every process has file mode creation mask

```
#include <sys/stat.h>
mode_t umask(mode_t cmask);
// Returns: previous file mode creation mask
```

cmask argument is formed as the bitwise OR of the nine constants from page ??

umask Example

Let's review codes/myumask.c

```
#define RWRWRW (S_IRUSR|S_IWUSR|S_IRGRP|S_IWGRP|S_IROTH|S_IWOTH)
    int
    main(void)
      umask(0):
      if (creat("foo", RWRWRW) < 0){
         fprintf(stderr, "Unable to create foo\n");
         exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
      umask(S_IRGRP | S_IWGRP | S_IROTH | S_IWOTH);
      if (creat("bar", RWRWRW) < 0){
         fprintf(stderr, "creat error for bar");
13
         exit(EXIT FAILURE):
14
15
       return EXIT SUCCESS:
16
17
```

umask Example

```
James@maker$ umask
0022
James@maker$ ./umask
James@maker$ ls -l foo bar
-rw------ 1 James staff 0 Sep 25 23:06 bar
-rw-rw-rw- 1 James staff 0 Sep 25 23:06 foo
James@maker$
```

umask More

Most users on Unix systems never deal with their umask value (set only once, on login, by the shell's start-up file, and never changed).

If you want to ensure that specific access permission bits are enabled, you must modify the umask value while your process is running.

chmod, fchmod, and fchmodat Functions

```
#include <sys/stat.h>
int chmod(const char *pathname, mode_t mode);
int fchmod(int fd, mode_t mode);
int fchmodat(int fd, const char *pathname, mode_t mode, int flag);
// All three return: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

- The chmod function operates on the specified file
- fchmod function operates on a file that has already been opened
- fchmodat function behaves like chmod when the *pathname* arguments is absolute or when the *fd* argument has the value AT_FDCWD and the *pathname* argument is relative

chmod, fchmod, and fchmodat Functions

mode	Description
S_ISUID	set-user-ID on execution
S_ISGID	set-group-ID on execution
S_ISVTX	saved-text (sticky bit)
S_IRWXU	read, write, and execute by user (owner)
S_IRUSR	read by user (owner)
S_IWUSR	write by user (owner)
S_IXUSR	execute by user (owner)
S_IRWXG	read, write, and execute by group
S_IRGRP	read by group
S_IWGRP	write by group
S_IXGRP	execute by group
S_IRWXO	read, write, and execute by other (world)
S_IROTH	read by other (world)
S_IWOTH	write by other (world)
S_IXOTH	execute by other (world)

Table: the mode constants for chmod function from <sys/stat.h>



chmod, fchmod, and fchmodat Functions

To change the permission bits of a file

The effective user ID of the process must be equal to the owner ID of the file (uid = st_uid), or the process must have superuser permissions

The *mode* is specified as the bitwise OR of the constraints showns in the table

Note that nine of the entries are the nine file access permission bits from Page ??

chmod Example

Let's review codes/mychmod.c

```
struct stat statbuf;
      /* turn on set-group-ID and turn off group-execute */
       if ( stat("foo", &statbuf) < 0 ) {</pre>
         fprintf(stderr, "can't stat foo\n");
         exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
      /* turn off group execute and turn on set-UID */
       if ( chmod("foo", (statbuf.st_mode & ~S_IXGRP) | S_ISUID) == -1 ) {
         fprintf(stderr, "can't chmod foo\n");
11
12
         exit(EXIT FAILURE):
13
14
      /* set absolute mode to rw-r--r-- */
15
      if ( chmod("bar", S_IRUSR | S_IWUSR | S_IRGRP | S_IROTH) == -1 ) {
16
         fprintf(stderr. "can't chmod bar\n"):
17
         exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
18
20
       exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
```

chmod Example

```
James@maker:codes$ umask 077
James@maker:codes$ touch foo bar
James@maker:codes$ chmod a+rx foo
James@maker:codes$ ls -l foo bar
-rwxr-xr-x 1 James staff 0 Sep 26 00:04 foo
-rw----- 1 James staff 0 Sep 26 00:04 bar
James@maker:codes$ make mychmod
cc -g -Wall -00 -c mychmod.c
cc -g -Wall -00 -o mychmod mychmod.o
James@maker:codes$ ./mychmod
James@maker:codes$ ls -al foo bar
-rwsr--r-x 1 James staff 0 Sep 26 00:04 foo
-rw-r--r-- 1 James staff 0 Sep 26 00:04 bar
```



chown, fchown, fchownat, and lchown Function

The chown functions allow us to change a file's user ID and group ID,

```
#include <unistd.h>
int chown(const char *pathname, uid_t owner, gid_t group);
int fchown(int fd, uid_t owner, gid_t group);
int fchownat(int fd, const char *pathname, uid_t owner, gid_t group, int flag);
int lchown(const char *pathname, uid_t owner, gid_t group);
// All four return: 0 if OK. 1 on error
```

chown, fchown, fchownat, and lchown Function

If either of the arguments *owner* or *group* is 1, the corresponding ID is left unchanged

Non-superusers can change the st_gid field if followings are true

- o effective-user ID == st_uid
- owner == file's user ID and group == effective-group ID

File Size

 ${\tt st_size}$ member of the ${\tt stat}$ structure contains the size of the file in bytes

- Regualr file a file size of o is allowed; returns end-of-file indications on the first read of the file
- Directory the file size usually a multiple of a number
- $\, \bigcirc \,$ a symbolic link the file size is the number of bytes in the filename

File Size Example

Watch how the size of directory grows

```
mkdir -p /tmp/temp; ls -ld /tmp/temp
for file in a b c d e f g ; do
touch /tmp/temp/${file} ; echo "creating /tmp/temp/${file}"
ls -ld /tmp/temp;
done
```

How about the size of symbolic link

```
DIRNAME=`pwd`
ln -s $DIRNAME /tmp/symlinkfile
ls -l /tmp/symlinkfile
echo $DIRNAME | wc -c
```



File Truncation

```
#include <unistd.h>
int truncate(const char *pathname, off_t length);
int ftruncate(int fd, off_t length);
// Both return: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

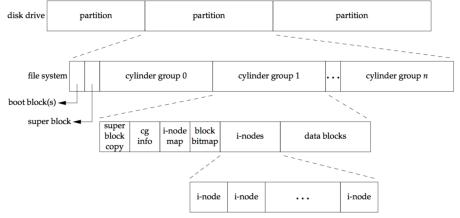
The two functions truncate an existing file to *length* bytes.

- o if the file is greater than *length*, the data beyond *length* is no longer accessible
- \bigcirc Previous size was less than *length*, the file size will increase, the in between data will read as 0



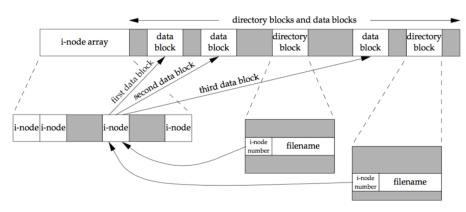
Disk drive, partitions, and a file system

We can think of a disk drive being divided into one or more partitions. Each partition can contain a file system. The i-nodes are fixed-length entries that contain most of the information about a file.





Cylinder group's inodes and data blocks in more detail



Shows example of two directory entries point to the same i-node entry.

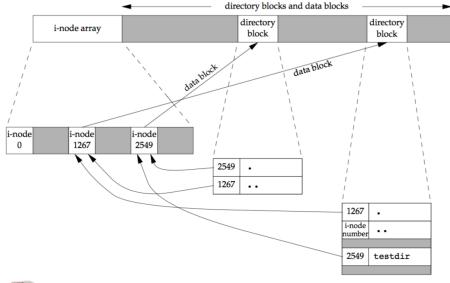
Cylinder group's inodes and data blocks in more detail

- Every i-node has a link count that contains the number of directory entries that point to it. Only when the link count goes to to o can the file be deleted
- Symbolic link, the actual contents of the file-data blocks- store the name of the file that the symbolic link points to
- i-node contains all the information about the file
- data type for i-node number is ino_t
- Only two items are in directory entry
 - the filename
 - the i-node number
- O directory entry can't refer to an i-node in a different File System
- When renaming, add a new directory entry that points to the existing i-node and then unlink the old directory entry



Sample cylinder group after creating the directory testdir

Result of \$ mkdir testdir; the two entries "dot" and "dot-dot"





link(2) Function

```
#include <unistd.h>
int link(const char *existingpath, const char *newpath);
int linkat(int efd, const char *existingpath, int nfd, const char *newpath, int flag);
// Both return: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

- These functions create a new directory entry, newpath, that references the existing file existingpath. If the newpath already exists, an error is returned. Only the last component of the newpath is created. The rest of the path must already exist.
- With the Linkat function, the existing file is specified by both the *efd* and *existingpath* arguments, and the new pathname is specified by both the *nfd* and *newpath* arguments.
- $\, \bigcirc \,$ When the existing file is a symbolic link, the flag argument controls the behavior
 - AT_SYMLINK_FOLLOW flag link is created to the target of the symbolic link
 - o no flag link is created to the symbolic link itself
- $\, \bigcirc \,$ Most implementations require that both pathnames be on the same file system



unlink(2) Function

```
#include <unistd.h>
int unlink(const char *pathname);
int unlinkat(int fd, const char *pathname, int flag);
// Both return: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

- Remove the directory entry and decrement the link count of the file referenced by pathname
- If there are other links to the file, the data in the file is still accessible through the other links
- To unlink a file, we must have write and execute permission in the directory containing the directory entry because we are modifying the directory entry
- Only when the link count reaches o can the contents of the file be deleted
- O If a process has the file open, its contents will not be deleted
 - The kernel first checks the count of the number of processes that have the file open
 - o if this count has reaced 0, the kernel then checks the link count
 - if it is 0, the file's contents are deleted



Open a file and then unlink it

```
James@maker:codes$ make unlink
James@maker:codes$ df ~
Filesystem 512-blocks Used Available Capacity iused ifree %iused Mounted
/dev/disk1 487830528 460268648 27049880 95% 57597579 3381235
                                                                 94%
James@maker:codes$ ./myunlink &
Γ17 11641
file unlinked
James@maker:codes$ df ~
Filesystem 512-blocks Used Available Capacity iused ifree %iused Mounted
/dev/disk1 487830528 460268600 27049928 95% 57597573 3381241
                                                                 94%
James@maker:codes$ done
Γ1]+ Done
                             ./myunlink
James@maker:codes$ df ~
Filesystem 512-blocks Used Available Capacity iused ifree %iused Mounted
/dev/disk1 487830528 459245352 28073176 95% 57469667 3509147
```



Open a file and then unlink it

Exploitation of unlink property

This property of unlink is often used by a program to ensure that a temporary file it creates won't be left around in case the program crashes. The process creates a file using either open or creat and then immediately calls unlink. The file is not deleted, however, because it is still open. Only when the process either closes the file or terminates, which causes the kernel to close all its open files, is the file deleted.

remove(2) Function

```
#include <stdio.h>
int remove(const char *pathname);
// Returns: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

We can also unlink a file or a directory with the remove function. For a file, remove is identical to unlink. For a directory, remove is identical to rmdir.

rename Function

File or a directory is renamed with either the rename or renameat function

```
#include <stdio.h>
int rename(const char *oldname, const char *newname);
int renameat(int oldfd, const char *oldname, int newfd, const char *newname);
// Both return: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

rename Function - the detail

int rename(const char *oldname, const char *newname);

If oldname refers to **is a file**, it is renaming a file or a symbolic link.

- If newname exists and is not a directory, it is removed, and oldname is renamed to newname.
 - w+x permission for directory containing *oldname* and *newname*

rename Function - the detail

```
int rename(const char *oldname, const char *newname);
```

If oldname refers to **is a directory**, it is renaming a directory.

- o if *newname* exists and is an empty directory, it is removed; *oldname* is renamedd *newname*
- if *newname* exists and is a file, an error is returned
- o if *oldname* is a prefix of *newname*, an error is returned
- w+x permission for directory containing *oldname* and *newname*

rename Function - the detail

int rename(const char *oldname, const char *newname);

Other details

- oldname or newname is symbolic link, then the link itself is processed, not the file to which it resolves
- We can't rename dot or dot-dot.
- As a special case, if *oldname* and *newname* refer to the same file, the function returns successfully without changing anything.

Creating Symbolic Links

```
#include <unistd.h>
int symlink(const char *actualpath, const char *sympath);
int symlinkat(const char *actualpath, int fd, const char *sympath);
// Both return: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

- A new directory entry, *sympath*, is created that points to *actualpath*.
- O It is not required that *actualpath* exist when the symbolic link is created.

Reading Symbolic Links

Because the open function follows a symbolic link, we need a way to open the link itself and read the name in the link. The readlink and readlinkat functions do this.

```
#include <unistd.h> ssize_t readlink(const char* restrict pathname, char *
    restrict buf, size_t bufsize); ssize_t
readlinkat(int fd, const char* restrict pathname, char *restrict buf, size_t
    bufsize);
// Both return: number of bytes read if OK, 1 on error
```

File Times

Field	Description	Example	ls(1) opt:				
st_atim	last-access time of file data	read	-u				
st_mtim	last-modification time of file data	write	default				
st_ctim	last-change time of i-node status	chmod, chown	-c				
Table: The three time values associated with each file							

ls command displays or sorts only on one of the three time values

- -l or -t : uses the modification time of a file
- -u: uses the access time
- -c : use the changed status time

Effect of various functions on the mac times

Function				Parent directory of referenced file				
		Referenced file				Section	Note	
		or directory		or directory				
	a	m	с	a	m	с		
chmod, fchmod			•				4.9	
chown, fchown			•				4.11	
creat	•	•	•		•	•	3.4	O_CREAT new file
creat		•	•				3.4	O_TRUNC existing file
exec	•						8.10	_
lchown			•				4.11	
link			•		•	•	4.15	parent of second argument
mkdir	•	•	•		•	•	4.21	1
mkfifo	•	•	•		•	•	15.5	
open	•	•	•		•	•	3.3	O_CREAT new file
open		•	•				3.3	O_TRUNC existing file
pipe	•	•	•				15.2	
read	•						3.7	
remove			•		•	•	4.15	remove file = unlink
remove					•	•	4.15	remove directory = rmdir
rename			•		•	•	4.16	for both arguments
rmdir					•	•	4.21	
truncate, ftruncate		•	•				4.13	
unlink			•		•	•	4.15	
utimes, utimensat, futimens		•	•				4.20	
write		•	•				3.8	



futimens, utimensat, and utimes Functions

Several functions are available to change the access time and the modification time of a file. The futimens and utimensat functions provide *nanosecond* granularity for specifying timestamps, using the timespec structure

```
#include <sys/stat.h>
int futimens(int fd, const struct timespec times[2]);
int utimensat(int fd, const char *path, const struct timespec times[2], int flag)
;
// Both return: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

- If times is NULL, access time and modification time are set to the current time (must be owner of file or have write permission).
- O If times is non-NULL, then times are set according to the timeval struct array. For this, you must be the owner of the file (write permission not enough).
- Note that st_ctime is set to the current time in both cases.



futimens, utimensat, and utimes Functions

```
#include <sys/time.h>
int utimes(const char *pathname, const struct timeval times[2]);
// Returns: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

The utimes function operates on a pathname. The *times* argument is a pointer to an array of two timestamps — access time and modification time — but they are expressed in *seconds* and *microseconds*:

```
struct timeval {
    time_t tv_sec; /* seconds */
    long tv_usec; /* microseconds */
};
```



mkdir and mkdirat Functions

Directories are created with the mkdir and mkdirat functions, and deleted with the rmdir function.

```
#include <sys/stat.h>
int mkdir(const char *pathname, mode_t mode);
int mkdirat(int fd, const char *pathname, mode_t mode);
// Both return: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

- These functions create a new, empty directory with dot and dot-dot
- The specified file access permissions, mode, are modified by the file mode creation mask of the process.

rmdir Function

```
#include <unistd.h>
int rmdir(const char *pathname);
// Returns: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

If a link count of the directory becomes o with this call, and if no other process has the directory open, then the space occupied by the directory is freed

Reading Directories

Directories can be read by anyone who has access permission to read the directory. But only the kernel can write to a directory, to preserve file system sanity.

```
#include <dirent.h>
DIR *opendir(const char *pathname);
DIR *fdopendir(int fd);
// Both return: pointer if OK, NULL on error

struct dirent *readdir(DIR *dp);
// Returns: pointer if OK, NULL at end of directory or error

void rewinddir(DIR *dp);
int closedir(DIR *dp);
// Returns: 0 if OK, 1 on error
```

The dirent structure (format of directory) defined in <dirent.h> is implementation dependent.



Moving Around Directories

```
#include <unistd.h>
int chdir(const char *pathname);
int fchdir(int fd);
// Both return: 0 if OK, 1 on error

#include <unistd.h>
char *getcwd(char *buf, size_t size);
// Returns: buf if OK, NULL on error
```

The current working directory (CWD) is an attribute of a process The home directory is an attribute of a login name

Moving Around Directories

Let's review codes/chdir.c

```
char buf[MAXPATHLEN]:
      if (argc != 2) {
         fprintf(stderr, "%s: requires a directory!\n", argv[0]);
         return(EXIT_FAILURE);
       if (chdir(argv[1]) < 0) {
         fprintf(stderr, "%s: unable to change directory to %s\n",
                     argv[0], argv[1]);
10
          return(EXIT FAILURE):
11
12
      printf("CWD is now: %s\n", getcwd(buf, MAXPATHLEN));
14
15
       if (svstem("ls -l") != 0) {
16
         perror("unable to run ls(1)");
17
         exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
18
21
       exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);
22
```

cd codes; make chdir; ./chdir /tmp



Last Words

Homework

- Review chapter 4
- O Read chapter 5