



# VMH FILESYSTEM

BASIC OS PROJECT  
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# I Introduction

Usually, when a file system is full, the user gets a "no space left on device" error message: it is not possible to add a new file or extend a file.

The objective of the project is to program a new file system that can handle a "no space left on device" error: this new file system we are going to implement assumes that, when the file system is full, the file system deletes the oldest files until it can store the new file.

The file system to program is simply an array of data stored as a regular file on the computer. The implementation of files, directories, inodes... and the intuition behind it are going to be discussed thoroughly in the first section.

Six main functions has been implemented in the file system (create, write, read, remove, ls, size) with the objective of reserving as much space as possible for file data. The structure of each one of these functions will be explained in the following sections.

## II File system structure

As we explained in the introduction, the main characteristic of this file system is the FIFO principle (first in first out) in writing files. So instead of using standard static data blocks, why not use a dynamic queue (FIFO) container which will model perfectly our file system. The cherry on top is that the files in our file system will be always sorted by date (the oldest element is always going to be the first element in the array).

In this manner, each time we want to modify the file system we have to put on the RAM, make the necessary modifications and then save it back to the disk. In our case, the size of the file system is just 10 MB, so its not going to affect the RAM. With larger file Systems this approach is obsolete.

To do so, we first use a function *get\_FS* that reads a file system stored on the disk to the memory. After the necessary changes are made to the file system, we use the function *put\_FS* that rewrites the file system back into the disk.

<b>FILESYSTEM</b>
<b>SuperBlock sb</b>
<b>File * file_array</b>
<b>Directory * directory_array</b>

**Table II.1:** FileSystem structure

In order to facilitate the manipulation of the objects that we are going to use in the file system we chose for our file system to be a *struct* that contains a **superblock**, a **directory array** and a **file array**:

- **The SuperBlock:** which is in itself a *struct* that contains some useful information about the file system(number of files, number of directories, size of the directory array, the current size of the file system, and the maximum size of the file system which is in our case 10 MB).

<b>SUPERBLOCK</b>
<i>long int</i> file_number
<i>long int</i> directory_number
<i>long int</i> directory_array_size
<i>long int</i> current_size
<i>long int</i> max_size

**Table II.2:** SuperBlock structure

- **The directory array:** which is an array of structs. Each directories is modeled by a struct that contains its name and the index of its parent directory in the directory array. We chose this implementation so we can link directories to one another easily. The root is going to have index -2 by convention in its parent id. When we need to remove a particular directory we will just put -1 in its parent id instead of removing it from the directory array(because if we remove it by reallocating the array and overwriting it, we would have messed up the parent child relationship because it relies on the index of each directory in the array and thus changing it will cause problems). In all other implementations, this will be taken into account, and by convention parent id = -1 means this directory doesn't exist and we can overwrite it with brand new directory.

<b>DIRECTORY</b>
<i>char</i> name[WORD_SIZE]
<i>long int</i> parent_id

**Table II.3:** Directory structure

- **File array:** which is an array of structs as well, these structs are going to be of type *File* which is in itself a struct that contains the contents of the file *char\* bytes* and another struct named *Inode* which provides some information about the file such as its name, size and its parent directory index.

<b>FILE</b>
<i>Inode</i> inode
<i>char *</i> bytes

**Table II.4:** File structure

<b>INODE</b>
<i>long int</i> size
<i>char</i> name[WORD_SIZE]
<i>long int</i> parent_id

**Table II.5:** File structure

## III Commands

### 1 The create command

#### 1.1 How it works

**create**: takes as an input the size of the file system we want to create.

When calling the create command, memory will be allocated on the heap for both the directory and the file array since they are dynamic, and then a file system structure is filled with the initial data. Eventually the new file system will have:

- `max_size` will be `size*1000*1000` (size is passed to create in MB and its multiplied by  $10^6$  in order to convert it into bytes).
- the directory and file's number is initialized to 0.
- the current size of the file system will updated to the size of the Superblock plus the size of the directory and file arrays.
- using `add_directory` function, root directory "/" with index -2 is added to the file system after allocating memory for 1 Directory struct in the directory array.

At the end the FileSystem struct will be stored on the disk using `put_FS` function and all the allocated memory will be freed up.

## 1.2 Testing

```
1 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS create 10
2 FileSystem created
3 Size: 80 B
4 Max size: 10000000 B
5 Files: 0
6 Directories: 1
```

**Code block 1:** *create command*

```
1 $ stat /tmp/tmpFS
2 File: /tmp/tmpFS
3 Size: 10000000      Blocks: 8      IO Block: 4096   regular file
4 Device: 10302h/66306d Inode: 5898250   Links: 1
5 Access: (0664/-rw-rw-r--)  Uid: ( 1000/  michel)   Gid: ( 1000/  michel)
6 Access: 2022-12-01 14:31:22.790783924 +0100
7 Modify: 2022-12-01 15:13:15.805815135 +0100
8 Change: 2022-12-01 15:13:15.805815135 +0100
9 Birth: 2022-12-01 13:17:22.874251973 +0100
```

**Code block 2:** *File system on the disk*



## 2 The ls command

### 2.1 How it works

**ls**: takes as an input the directory path and two flags: -r for the recursive version and -d to sort the files by date. (By construction of the file system, they're always sorted.) To do its job it uses the following subfunctions:

- *ls\_accumulator(FileSystem fs, long int dir\_id, int level, int max\_level)*: this function is recursive, it takes the directory id as an input, it uses the *get\_dir\_children(fs, id)* function to get all the children directories of the given directory and stores them in a *dir\_children* structure, if the children number of this directory is greater than zero this means that its not empty and has children directories, in this case we will print the name of the directory children and recursively print all the files found in these directories. The base condition for this recursive function is *dir\_children.number==0* i.e to stop when a given directory doesn't have any children directories.
- *Dir\_files get\_dir\_files(FileSystem fs, long int dir\_id)*: this function takes as an input the directory id and find all the files found in this directory.

The **ls** function always checks whether the path provided is correct or not. If the recursive flag hasn't been indicated, it will print the all files inside the desired directory.

On the other hand if the recursive flag is present, the ls function prints the files inside the given directory and recursively prints all files contained in its children directories schemed in a tree representation.

## 2.2 Testing

```
1 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS create 10
2 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/foo.txt /dir1/dir2/dir3/dir4/dir5/foo.txt
3 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/foo.txt /dir1/foo1.txt
4 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/foo.txt /dir1/foo2.txt
5 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/foo.txt /dir1/foo3.txt
6 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS ls /dir1
7 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS ls /dir1 -r
```

**Code block 3:** *ls command*

```
1 Write file /tmp/foo.txt to filesystem at: /dir1/dir2/dir3/dir4/dir5/foo.txt
2 Write file /tmp/foo.txt to filesystem at: /dir1/foo1.txt
3 Write file /tmp/foo.txt to filesystem at: /dir1/foo2.txt
4 Write file /tmp/foo.txt to filesystem at: /dir1/foo3.txt
5 List segment:
6 dir1
7 L__foo1.txt [18 B]
8 L__foo2.txt [18 B]
9 L__foo3.txt [18 B]
10 L__dir2
11 List segment:
12 dir1
13 L__foo1.txt [18 B]
14 L__foo2.txt [18 B]
15 L__foo3.txt [18 B]
16 L__dir2
17     L__dir3
18         L__dir4
19             L__dir5
20                 L__foo.txt [18 B]
```

**Code block 4:** *Command output*

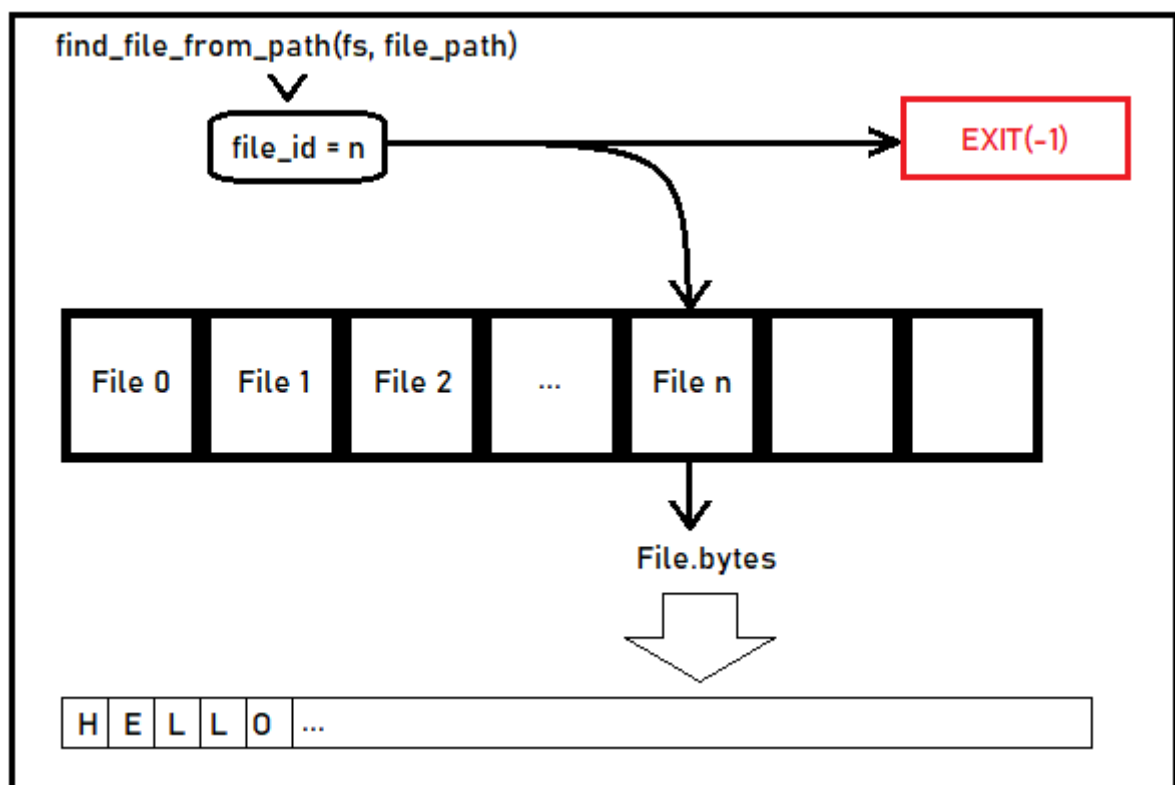
### 3 The read command

#### 3.1 How it works

**read**: returns the bytes of the file. It takes in argument the path to the file. First it checks if the path refers to a file and not a directory.

Then, we call the function *file\_from\_path*. If it returns a value equal to -1, that means the file doesn't exist. Else, we'll use the function *file\_id* to get the index of the file in the *file\_array*.

Thanks to the File struct, we can access easily to the content of the file with the member *File.bytes*. Finally we print it in the standard output.



**Figure 1:** Reading a file (made with MS Paint)

## 3.2 Testing

```
1 $ echo "Random string 123" > /tmp/foo.txt
2 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/foo.txt /dir1/dir2/foo.txt
3 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS read /dir1/dir2/foo.txt
4 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS read /dir1/dir2/foo2.txt
```

**Code block 5:** *Read command*

```
1 Write file /tmp/foo.txt to filesystem at: /dir1/dir2/foo.txt
2 Random string 123
3 File doesn't exist
```

**Code block 6:** *Command output*

## 4 The remove command

### 4.1 How it works

**remove**: remove a file or directory at the provided path.

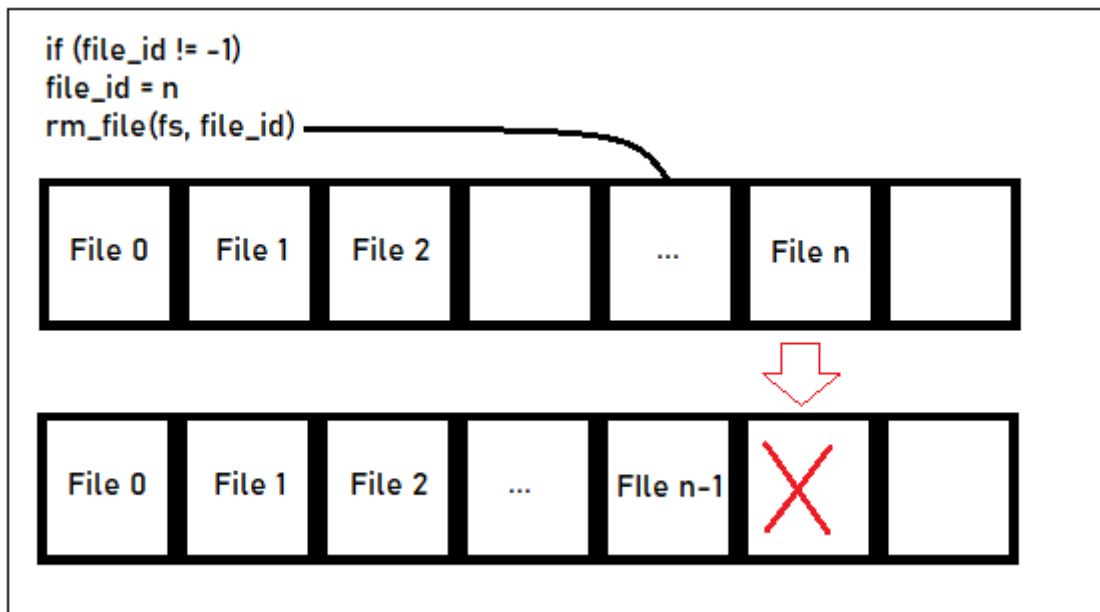
As we did in the read function we should also check here whether the path is correct or not. To do so, we can call the functions *find\_file\_from\_path* and *find\_dir\_from\_path*.

If the path is valid (i.e. there is something at this path in the file system), then we must get a non -1 value (-1 means the file/dir doesn't exist at this path). Else, if we get return value -1 for both of these functions, the path is not valid.

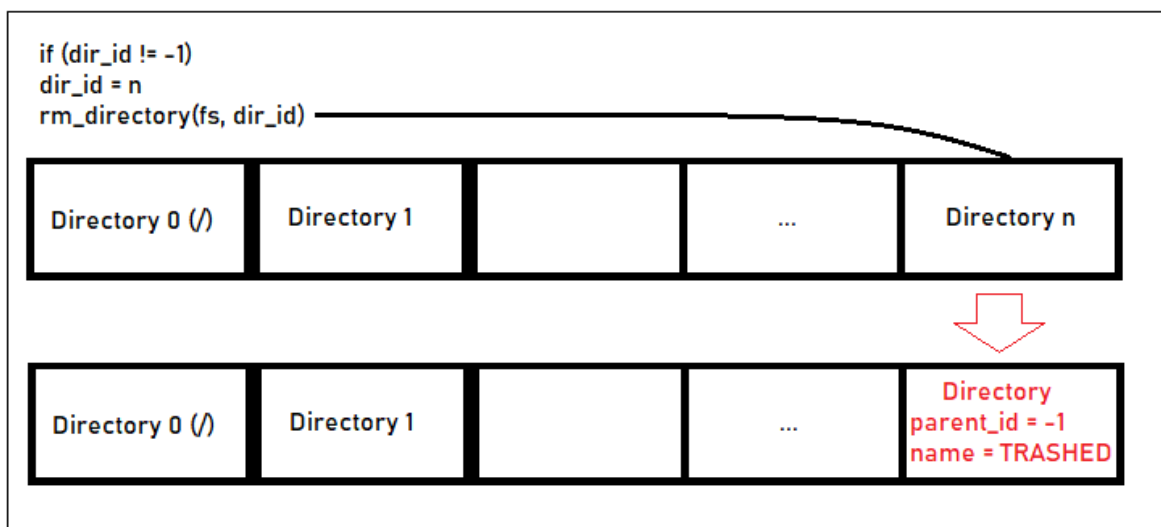
Now that we know whether the path refers to a file or a directory, we just need to call the adapted function to remove it (either *rm\_directory* or *rm\_file*). Those functions are file system functions, because they are used in other commands as well.

Removing a file is different from removing a directory. On one hand, removing a file consists of removing the file from the *file\_array* and then shift every other file to fill the gap. On the other hand, removing a directory consists only of setting up the directory's *parent\_id* to -1 (convention) and name to *TRASHED*.

Directories should not be shifted like files, because we need to preserve the parent-child relationship between directories and this information is stored inside in *parent\_id* member and their indices in the *directory\_array*.



**Figure 2:** Removing a file (made with MS Paint)



**Figure 3:** Removing a directory (made with MS Paint)

## 4.2 Testing

```
1 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/foo.txt /dir1/dir2/foo.txt
2 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS remove /dir1/dir2/foo.txt
3 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS remove /dir1/dir2
4 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS remove /dir1
5 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS ls / -r
6 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS remove /
```

**Code block 7:** *Remove command*

```
1 Write file /tmp/foo.txt to filesystem at: /dir1/dir2/foo.txt
2 File /dir1/dir2/foo.txt has been remove from the file system
3 Directory /dir1/dir2 has been remove from the file system
4 Directory /dir1 has been remove from the file system
5 List segment:
6 /
7 Root directory cannot be removed
```

**Code block 8:** *Command output*

## 5 The write command

### 5.1 How it works

**write**: takes as an argument an input file stored in the computer and writes at a specified *destination\_path*.

We start with some error handling: we check if the given file exists already in the file system by using the function *find\_file\_from\_path*. This function returns -1 if the file doesn't exist otherwise it returns the index of the file in the file array.

After this step we use the function *create\_dir\_from\_path* to check whether the path exists or not, if it does the function proceeds without changing anything. If it doesn't exist or its missing some directories it creates them.

Next, we create a struct of type *File* where we put the content of the input file and the information related to it thanks to the function *get\_file*. Before proceeding we check if the size of the file doesn't exceed 5MB.

Now, to add the *File* struct that we just created to the file system we need to check first if the number of bytes of the file plus the size of one inode can fit in the current file system. If it is the case we add it directly using the function *add\_file*. This function first checks if the file array is empty, if it is we use the the LibC function *malloc* to allocate space for the new file. If there are already some files in the file system, we use *realloc* to allocate more space for the new file. We treated the first case separately to avoid using *realloc* on an empty array as it can result in some memory problems.



Moving on to the second case now where there isn't enough space to store the new file. Here we should proceed using the FIFO principle. The first case is where the file array contains only one file, we shall remove it using the function *remove\_file* that we discussed earlier in the remove command. Next, we add it to the file system using the function *add\_file*. We treat this case separately to avoid using the *realloc* on an empty array. In the second case the file system contains at least two files, we go into a while loop that counts the number of files to be removed from the file system starting from the oldest, in order for our new file to fit.

Now we should shift the files to the left in the file array by the number of files that should be removed (that we counted earlier with the while loop). Afterwards we reallocate the file array to fit the current number of files. Eventually we add the new file at end of the file array.

## 5.2 Testing

```
1 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/4mb /dir1/dir2/4mb1
2 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/4mb /dir1/dir2/4mb2
3 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/4mb /dir1/dir2/4mb3
4 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS ls / -r
```

**Code block 9:** *Write command*

```
1 Write file /tmp/4mb to filesystem at: /dir1/dir2/4mb1
2 Write file /tmp/4mb to filesystem at: /dir1/dir2/4mb2
3 Write file /tmp/4mb to filesystem at: /dir1/dir2/4mb3
4 List segment:
5 /
6 L__dir1
7   L__dir2
8     L__4mb2 [4194304 B]
9     L__4mb3 [4194304 B]
```

**Code block 10:** *Command output*

## 6 The size command

### 6.1 How it works

**size**: computes the size of files inside a given directory. It takes as arguments the directory path, a flag to indicate the desired size unit, an optional `-r` flag to recursively calculate the size of files inside that directory and a `-stat` flag that gives some statistics about the file system.

We first start by calling the function *find\_dir\_from\_path* to check if the path is correct, if not it returns -1. If the path exists indeed, it returns the directory index in the directory file.

Next we use the function *size\_dir\_files* that calculates the size of files inside a single directory with a simple for loop over the file array.

For the recursive part, we use the function *size\_accumulator* that takes as an argument the index of a given directory and computes recursively the size of files inside of it. The base condition of this recursive function is to stop at a directory that doesn't have any children directories. We find the indices of the children directories of a given directory by calling the function *get\_dir\_children* that uses another simple for loop over the directory array.

## 6.2 Testing

```
1 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/foo.txt /dir1/fool.txt
2 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS write /tmp/4mb /dir2/4mb1
3 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS size /dir1 -b -r
4 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS size /dir2 -k -r
5 $ vmhFS /tmp/tmpFS size / -b -stat
```

**Code block 11:** *Size command*

```
1 Write file /tmp/4mb to filesystem at: /dir1/dir2/4mb1
2 Write file /tmp/4mb to filesystem at: /dir1/dir2/4mb2
3 Write file /tmp/4mb to filesystem at: /dir1/dir2/4mb3
4 List segment:
5 /
6 L__dir1
7   L__dir2
8     L__4mb2 [4194304 B]
9     L__4mb3 [4194304 B]
10 Write file /tmp/foo.txt to filesystem at: /dir1/fool.txt
11 Write file /tmp/4mb to filesystem at: /dir2/4mb1
12 Total size of files in /dir1: 18 B [Recursive]
13 Total size of files in /dir2: 4194 KB [Recursive]
14 Current size of the file system 12583532
15 Total size of the files: 4194322
16 Ratio Total files/Total filesystem: 0.33332
17 Total size of files in /: 0 B [Not recursive]
```

**Code block 12:** *Command output*

## IV Conclusion

All the VMH File system commands work as expected and fulfill the initial requirements. The queue structure of the file system simplified the implementation of the other functions. Furthermore, the advantage of working on the RAM is that we make one load and one save instead of repeating this process multiple times for each micro-modification if we were to have a static structure on the disk. But this approach will only work for very small file systems as mentioned before. To counter this problem, a possible solution is to segment the file system and load it into the RAM segment by segment to make the necessary modifications. We could also add a recursive flag to the remove command, the implementation is going to be similar to the ls and size commands.