

## \* The /dev directory

→ The /dev directory contains device nodes, a type of pseudo-file used by most hardware and software, except for network devices.

- Empty on the disk partition when it is not mounted.
- Contains entries which are created by udev system, which creates and manage devices node on linux creating them dynamically when devices are found.

→ The /dev directories contains items such as

1. /dev/sda1 (first Partition on the first hard disk),
2. /dev/lp1 (second printer)
3. /dev/random (a source of random numbers).

## \* The /var Directory

- The /var directory contains files that are expected to change in size content as the system is running (var stands for variable).
- Such as the entries in the following directories.
  - system log files: /var/log
  - Package and database files: /var/lib
  - Print queues: /var/spool
  - Temporary files /var/tmp.
- The /var directory may be put on it's own file system so that growth of the files can be accommodated and any exploding file size do not fatally affect the system.
- Network services directories such as /var/www (the HTTP web service) are also found under /var.

## \* The /etc Directory

→ The /etc directory is the home for system configuration files.

→ It contains no binary programs, although there are some executable scripts.

→ Files like `passwd`, `shadow` and `group` for managing user accounts are found in the /etc directory.

→ While some distributions have historically had their own extensive infrastructure under /etc.

→ Note that /etc is for system-wide configuration file and only the superuser can modify files there.



## \* The /boot directory

→ The /boot directory contains the few essential files needed to boot the system.

→ For every alternative kernel installed on the system there are four files.

### 1. vmlinuz

→ The compressed Linux kernel, required for booting.

### 2. initramfs

→ The initial ram file system, required for booting sometime called initrd, not initramfs.

### 3. config

→ The kernel configuration files only used for debugging and bookkeeping.

### 4. system.map

→ Kernel symbol table only used for debugging.

→ Each of these file has kernel version appendent to its name.

→ The Grand unified Bootloader (GRUB) files

such as /boot/grub/grub.conf or

/boot/grub2/grub2.cfg are also found under

the /boot directories.