Virtual File System

- Manages kernel level file abstractions in one format for all file systems
- Receives system call requests from user level (e.g. write, open, stat, link)
- Interacts with a specific file system based on mount point traversal
- Receives requests from other parts of the kernel, mostly from memory management

Real File Systems

- managing file & directory data
- managing meta-data: timestamps, owners, protection, etc.