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Notes

Kernel ~ sees the file as flat

User ~ sees them as hierarchical

Pseudo-device ~ parts of the kernel that act like device drivers but do not correspond to any actual hardware

/dev/null ~ used in the shell scripts when we want to discard one of the standard stream

4 Types of Devices;

(1) Block

Usually for data storage, look for data in chunks of blocks.

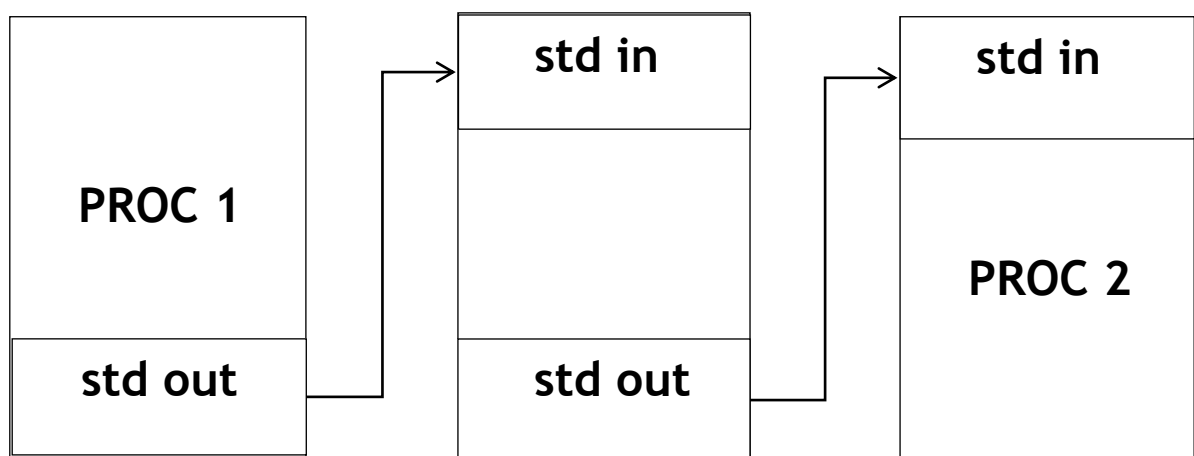
(2) Character

Standard stream, No fixed sizes.

(3) Pipes

Only the kernel can used unnamed pipes.

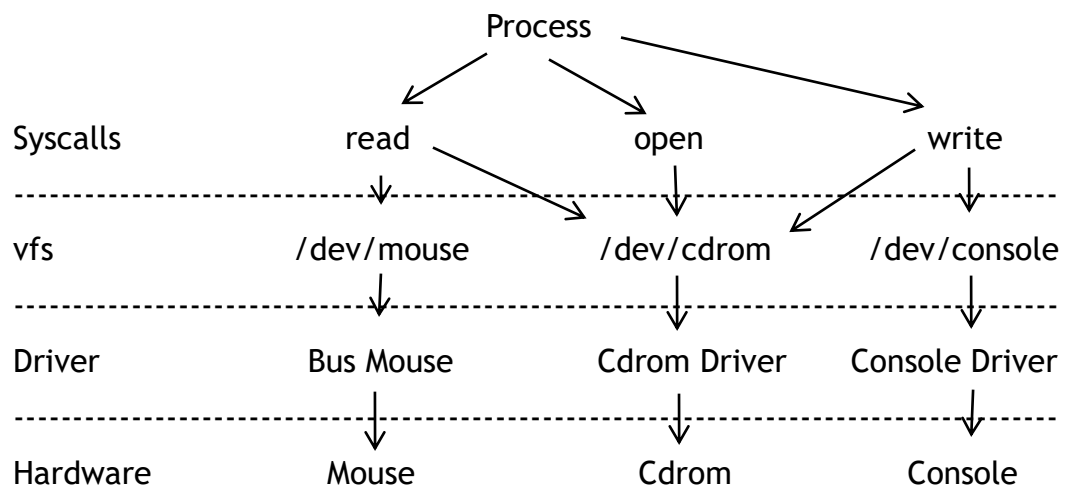
(4) Sockets



Character Devices;

- ~ Works with stream, “read from, write to...”
- ~ Unlike block, character device doesn’t have fixed sizes so we can’t index them easily.
- ~ Terminal device - a device for moving characters between processes and iostream.
- ~ Audio devices
- ~ Printer
- ~ Ethernet device
- ~ Joystick
- ~ Pseudo-device
 - /dev/null: discard one of the standard streams
 - /dev/zero: read as many zeroes as you want, create a file full of zeroes
 - /dev/random: when a relatively good source of random data is needed.
(pseudo-random generator)
 - /dev/full: test how the application would behave when you run out of disk space. Fail with an ENOSPC error.

I/O Interface;



I/O Highway;

