CSc 352

C Programming files

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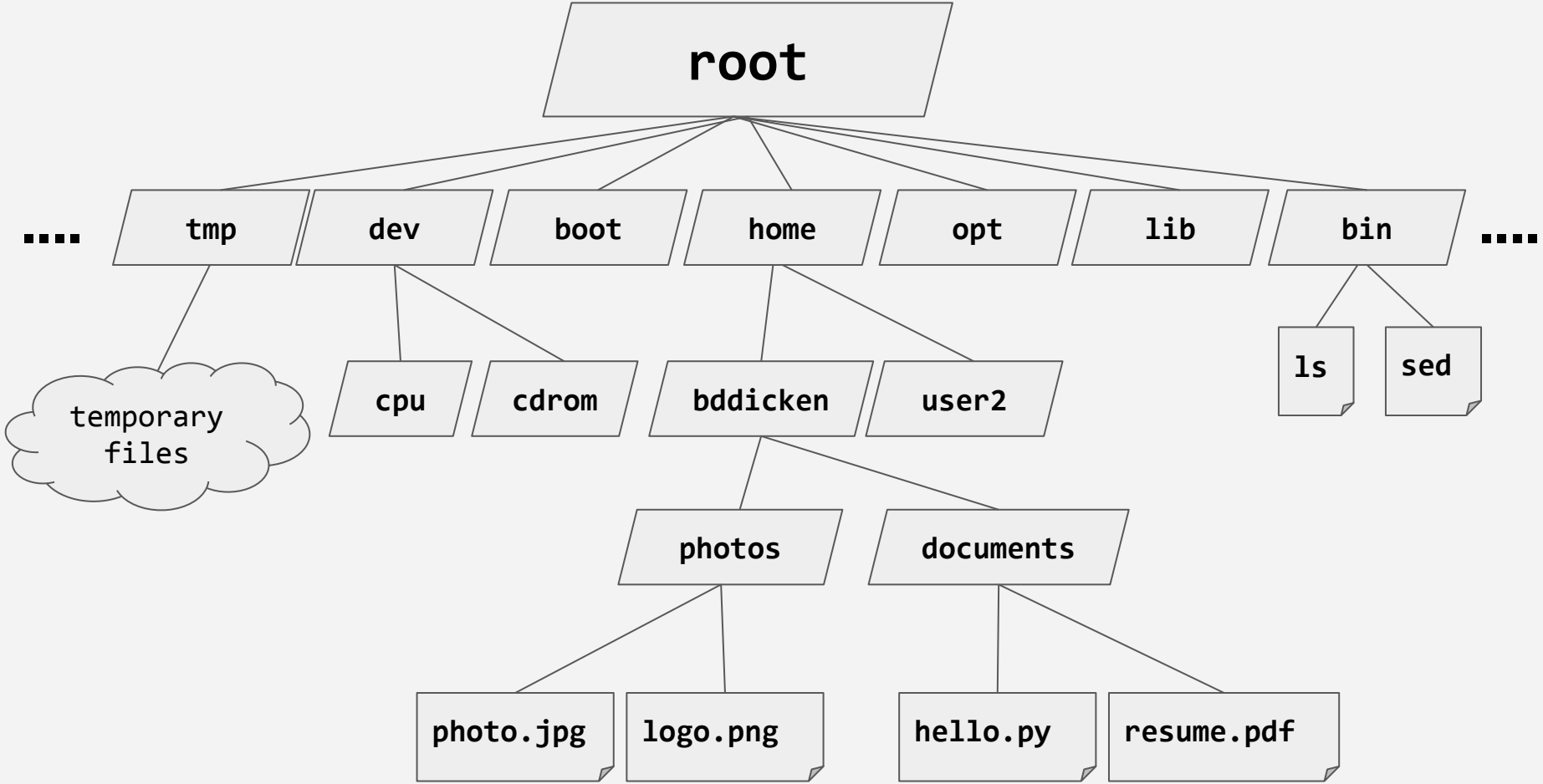
The UNIX File System

- The file system is a core component to a UNIX operating system
- There are different specific implementations, but there are shared general-principles
  - UFS, EXT2, EXT3, EXT4, ZFS, etc, etc
- We will focus on the general principles

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unix_filesystem


root
....
tmp
dev
boot
home
opt
lib
bin
....
temporary files
cpu
cdrom
bddicken
user2
ls
sed
photos
documents
photo.jpg
logo.png
hello.py
resume.pdf

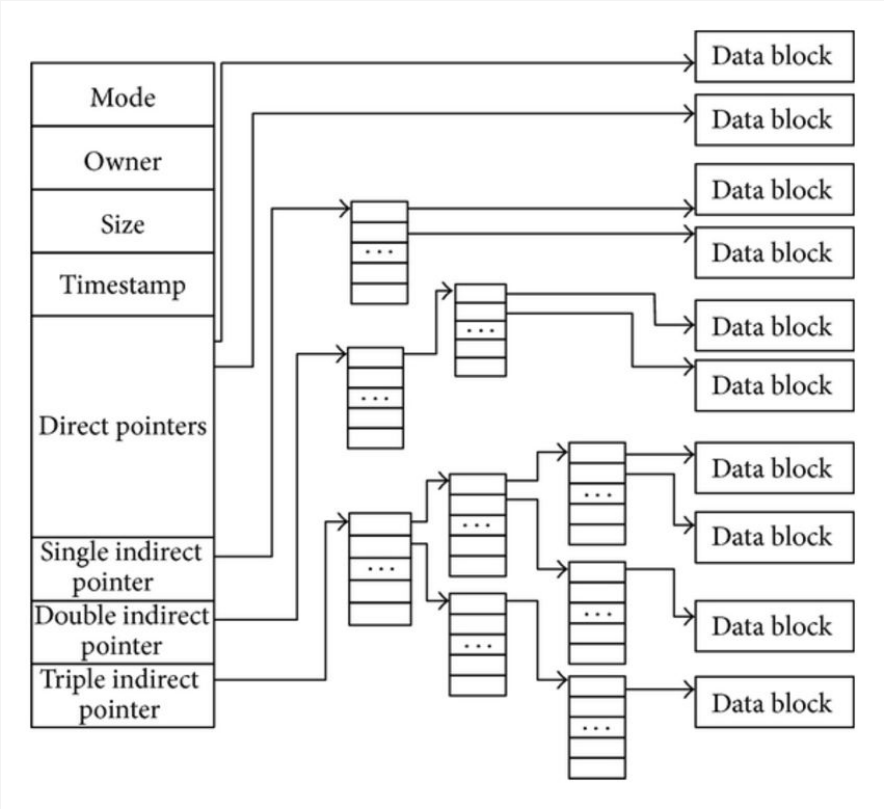
Files vs Directories

- A “regular” file (.txt, .c, .out, etc) and a directory are both just files
- A directory files contains a list of inodes including itself, its parent, and its child inodes
- Try: **`$ ls -l`**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inode

iNodes

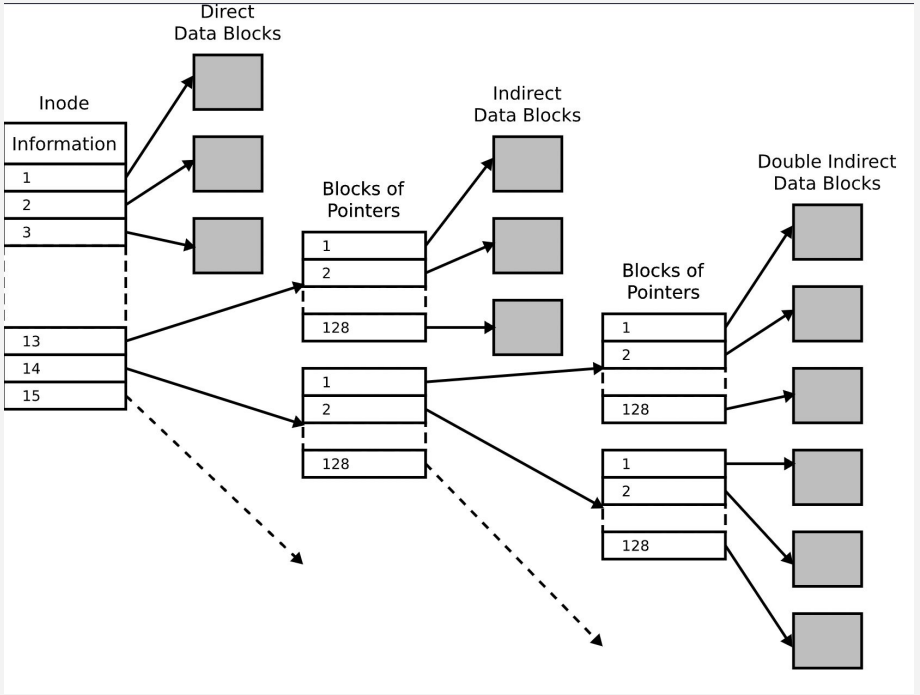
- Behind the scenes, a **file** is really a node containing a collection of **metadata** and pointers to blocks of the actual **data**
- These nodes are called **inodes**
- The file systems stores a table or a tree of **inodes** on the actual hard drive



https://www.researchgate.net/figure/The-architecture-of-an-inode-in-EXT3-file-system_fig2_258396310

iNodes pointer structure

- For small files, can store data within the blocks from the direct pointers
- For larger files, use some of the indirect pointers
- Find block size: **`$ stat -f /`**
- Inode number: **`$ ls -i`**

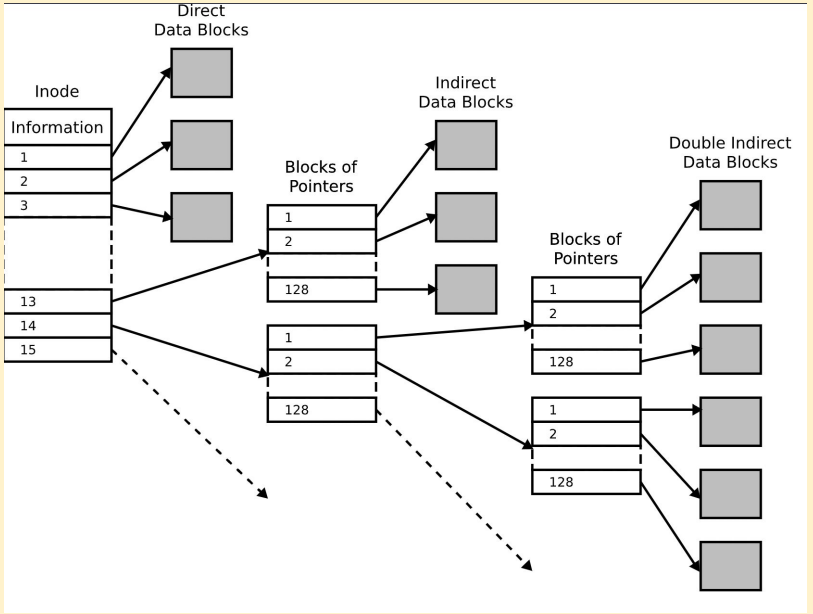


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inode_pointer_structure
http://www.linuxintro.org/wiki/Blocks,_block_devices_and_block_sizes

Activity

How big will the file be?

How many block pointers will be required for a text file with 100,000 ascii characters with a block size of 4096 bytes and a block pointer size of 64 bits?

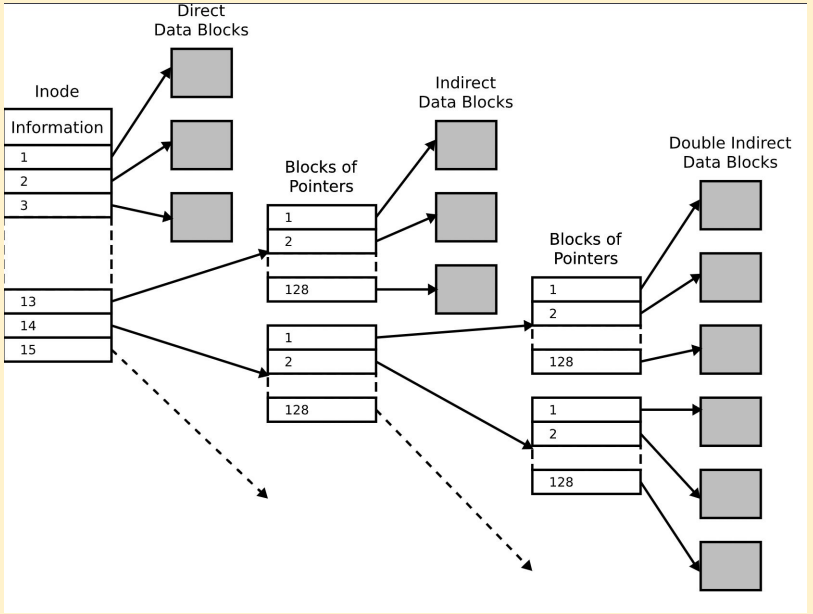


How big will the file be?

How many block pointers will be required for a text file with 100,000 ascii characters with a block size of bytes and a block pointer size of 64 bits?

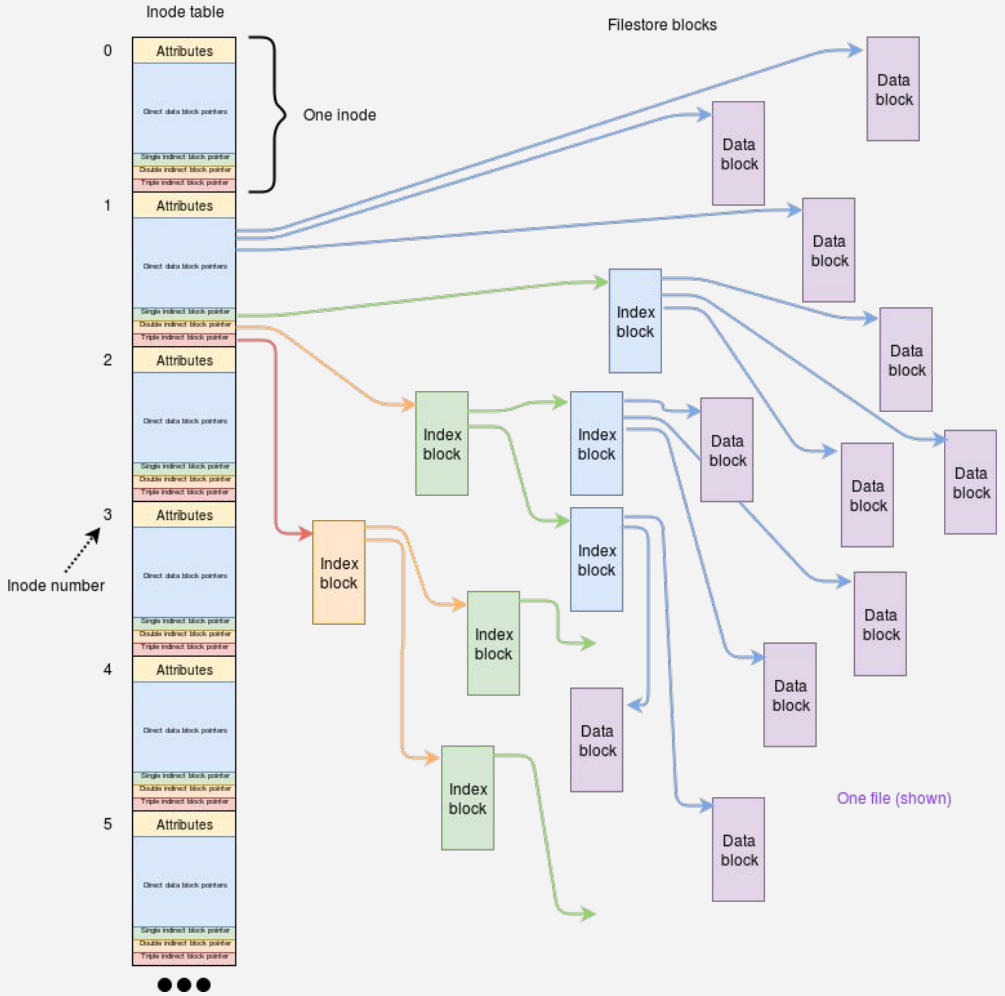
26

(12 in the inode, 1 indirect, 13 in the block of pointers)



iNodes

- iNodes themselves are stored in a known location on a hard drive
- Can be an array / table or B / B+ tree



https://xerxes.cs.manchester.ac.uk/comp251/kb/Inodes

File-related Commands

```
stat

df

ls -i
```

Text File I/O in C

- Can read and write text to and from files
- Similar to reading/writing to stdin/stdout
- stdio/stderr are basically just “files” that have already been opened for you

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <errno.h>

int main() {
  FILE* test_file;
  test_file = fopen("file.txt", "w");
  if (test_file == NULL) {
    fprintf(stderr, "Opening file failed with code %d.\n", errno);
    return 1;
  }
  fprintf(test_file, "Number: %d\n", 25);
  fflush(test_file);
  fclose(test_file);
  return 0;
}
```

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```

What is a FILE* ?

Many different possible modes (see man pages)

Same function, different locations to send the output to

See man pages for fopen, fprintf, fflush, fclose, fscanf

Implement Sum

Write a C program that

1. Prompts the user for a file name
2. Opens this file
3. Reads through each line of file, assuming each line will have exactly 1 integer number
4. Sum the numbers, save the result to sum.txt

What is a FILE?

A structure containing the necessary information to manage that particular file

See the standard!

http://port70.net/~nsz/c/c11/n1570.html

What is a FILE?

Investigate on lectura. You can use:

```
$ locate stdio.h

$ echo '#include <stdio.h>' | cpp -H -o /dev/null 2>&1 | head -n1
```

Can you figure out what a FILE actually is?

What is a FILE?

/usr/include/stdio.h

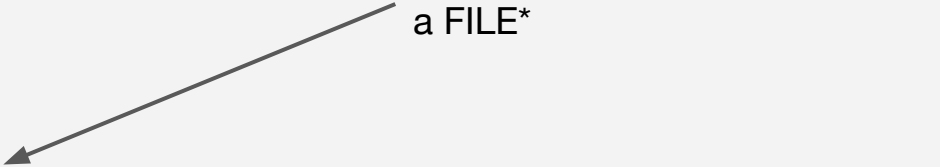
/usr/include/x86_64-linux-gnu/bits/types/struct_FILE.h

```c
#include <stdio.h>

int main() {
  FILE* test_file;
  char line[128];
  test_file = fopen("data.txt", "r");
  if (test_file == NULL) {
    fprintf(stderr, "error opening the file.\n");
    return 1;
  }

  while (fgets(line, 127, test_file) != NULL) {
      printf(">%s<\n", line);
  }

  fclose(test_file);
  return 0;
}
```



Function summary

- **`fopen`** - For opening files, getting FILE pointers. Can open in various modes
- **`fscanf / fgets`** - For reading from files
- **`fprintf`** - For writing to a file
- **`fflush`** - Ensure that any buffered content gets written to the file stream
- **`fclose`** - Close the file

Implement toupper.c

Write a C program that

1. Prompts the user for two input files names
2. The program should read in the lines from the first, convert alphabetical character to CAPS, and write to the second file
3. Close files when done

File Permissions

Each file can have designated permissions for owner, group, and everyone

For each of those, can specify if allowed to **read** and/or **write** and/or **execute**

`ls -l test.c` or `stat test.c`

File Permissions

```
lectura:> stat test.c
  File: test.c
  Size: 175           Blocks: 14         IO Block: 131072 regular file
Device: 43h/67d   Inode: 4570337     Links: 1
Access: (0751/-rwxr-x--x)  Uid: (14358/bddicken)   Gid: (    0/    root)
Access: 2022-02-21 12:37:09.281929146 -0700
Modify: 2022-02-21 12:37:09.283156247 -0700
Change: 2022-02-21 12:55:26.879605124 -0700
```

File Permissions

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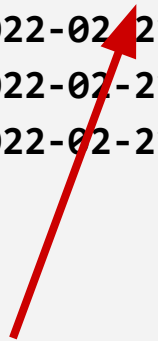

Owner can read, write, exec
Group can read and exec
Everyone can exec

File Permissions

rwxr-x--x

751

111101001

Chmod

Use chmod to specify permissions

```
$ chmod 751 test.c
```

Sets permissions for test.c to **111101001** or **rwxr-x--x**

Chmod

Write the chmod command to set the permissions of the file **test.txt** to be:

```
r-x--xrwx
```