

# TCSS 422: OPERATING SYSTEMS

## Beyond Physical Memory, I/O Devices, HDDs

Wes J. Lloyd

School of Engineering and Technology  
University of Washington - Tacoma

June 2, 2020

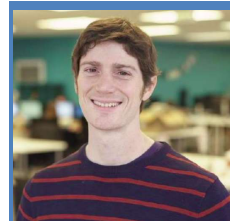
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- Andrew Oberhardt
- Senior Software Engineer,  
Axon Company
- Alumni Virginia Tech
- Previously:  
Software Engineer at  
Microsoft (10+ years),  
Code.org, and Amazon
- Axon Company
- <https://www.axon.com/company>
- Open positions, hiring

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GUEST  
SPEAKER,  
Q&A

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## OBJECTIVES – 6/2

### ■ Questions from 5/28

- Tutorial 2 (pthreads, locks, conditions) – due Thurs June 4
- Quiz 3 posted – Active Reading Ch. 19 – due Tues June 2
- Assignment 3 – on Linux kernel programming – offered in “tutorial” format – due Sat June 13
- Quiz 4 – Page Tables
- Practice Final Exam Questions – Thursday – 2<sup>nd</sup> hour
- Chapter 22: Cache Replacement Policies: Workload Examples
- Chapter 36: I/O Devices
  - Polling vs. Interrupts, Programmed I/O, Direct Memory Access
- Chapter 37: Hard Disk Drives

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## MATERIAL / PACE

- Please classify your perspective on material covered in today's class (38 respondents):
  - 1-mostly review, 5-equal new/review, 10-mostly new
  - Average – 7.3 (↑ from 6.62)
- Please rate the pace of today's class:
  - 1-slow, 5-just right, 10-fast
  - Average – 5.83 (↓ from 5.84)

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FEEDBACK FROM 5/28

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# CHAPTER 21/22: BEYOND PHYSICAL MEMORY



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# REPLACEMENT POLICIES

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## OPTIMAL REPLACEMENT POLICY

- What if:
  - We could predict the future (... with a magical oracle)
  - All future page accesses are known
  - Always replace the page in the cache used farthest in the future
- Used for a comparison
- Provides a “best case” replacement policy
- Consider a 3-element empty cache with the following page accesses:

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

What is the hit/miss ratio?

6 hits

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FIFO REPLACEMENT

- Queue based
- Always replace the oldest element at the back of cache
- Simple to implement
- Doesn't consider importance... just arrival ordering
- Consider a 3-element empty cache with the following page accesses:

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

- What is the hit/miss ratio?
- How is FIFO different than LRU?

4 hits

LRU incorporates history

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RANDOM REPLACEMENT

- Pick a page at random to replace
- Simple and fast implementation
- Performance depends on luck of random choices

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

Number of Hits	Frequency
2	2
3	10
4	20
5	40
6	45

Random Performance over 10,000 Trials

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## HISTORY-BASED POLICIES

- LRU: Least recently used
- Always replace page with oldest access time (front)
- Always move end of cache when element is read again
- LRU requires constant reorganization of the cache
- Considers temporal locality (*when pg was last accessed*)

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

What is the hit/miss ratio?

6 hits

- LFU: Least frequently used
- Always replace page with the fewest # of accesses (front)
- Incorporates frequency of use - *must track pg accesses*
- Consider frequency of page accesses

0 1 2 0 1 3 0 3 1 2 1

Hit/miss ratio is=6 hits

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Consider a 3-element cache. With a FIFO replacement policy, how many hits occur with the following page access sequence:

**1 2 0 1 3 1 2 0 2 1 3**

2 hits

3 hits

4 hits

5 hits

6 hits

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at [pollev.com/app](https://pollev.com/app)

Consider a 3-element cache. With an LRU replacement policy, how many hits occur with the following page access sequence:

1 2 0 1 3 1 2 0 2 1 3

2 hits

3 hits

4 hits

5 hits

6 hits

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WORKLOAD EXAMPLES: NO-LOCALITY

No-Locality (Random Access) Workload

- Perform 10,000 random page accesses
- Across set of 100 memory pages

The No-Locality Workload

When the cache is large enough to fit the entire workload, it doesn't matter which policy you use.

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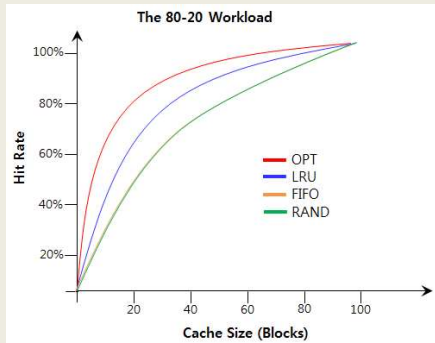
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## WORKLOAD EXAMPLES: 80/20

### ■ 80/20 Workload

- Perform 10,000 page accesses, against set of 100 pages
- 80% of accesses are to 20% of pages (hot pages)
- 20% of accesses are to 80% of pages (cold pages)



LRU is more likely  
to hold onto  
hot pages  
(recalls history)

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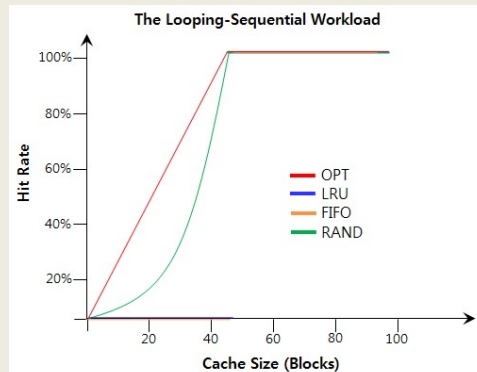
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## WORKLOAD EXAMPLES: SEQUENTIAL

### ■ Looping sequential workload

- Refer to 50 pages in sequence: 0, 1, ..., 49
- Repeat loop



Random performs  
better than FIFO and  
LRU for  
cache sizes < 50

Algorithms should provide  
"scan resistance"

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## With small cache sizes, for the looping sequential workload, why do FIFO and LRU fail to provide cache hits?

Cache hits in this scenario require consideration of how frequently accessed memory is for cache replacement

Memory accesses are unpredictable and too random. Unpredictable accesses require a random cache replacement policy for cache hits

Memory accesses to elements that are accessed repeatedly are too spread apart temporally to benefit from caching

Unlike Random cache replacement, both FIFO and LRU fail to speculate memory accesses in advance to improve caching

None of the above

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## IMPLEMENTING LRU

- Implementing last recently used (LRU) requires tracking access time for all system memory pages
- Times can be tracked with a list
- For cache eviction, we must scan an entire list
- Consider: 4GB memory system ( $2^{32}$ ), with 4KB pages ( $2^{12}$ )
- This requires  $2^{20}$  comparisons !!!
- Simplification is needed
  - Consider how to approximate the oldest page access

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## IMPLEMENTING LRU - 2

- Harness the Page Table Entry (PTE) Use Bit
- HW sets to 1 when page is used
- OS sets to 0
- Clock algorithm (*approximate LRU*)
  - Refer to pages in a circular list
  - Clock hand points to current page
  - Loops around
    - IF USE\_BIT=1 set to USE\_BIT = 0
    - IF USE\_BIT=0 replace page



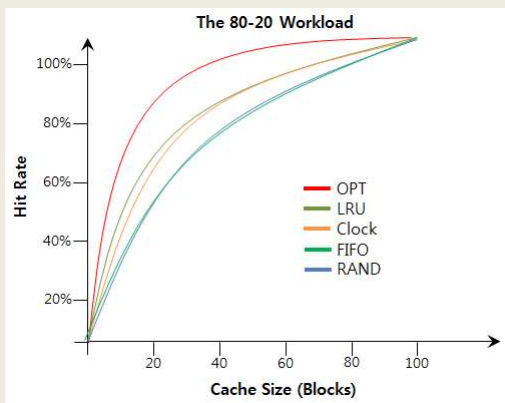
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## CLOCK ALGORITHM

- Not as efficient as LRU, but better than other replacement algorithms that do not consider history



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## CLOCK ALGORITHM - 2

- Consider dirty pages in cache
- If DIRTY (modified) bit is FALSE
  - No cost to evict page from cache
- If DIRTY (modified) bit is TRUE
  - Cache eviction requires updating memory
  - Contents have changed
- Clock algorithm should favor no cost eviction

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## WHEN TO LOAD PAGES

- On demand → demand paging
- Prefetching
  - Preload pages based on anticipated demand
  - Prediction based on locality
  - Access page P, suggest page P+1 may be used
- What other techniques might help anticipate required memory pages?
  - Prediction models, historical analysis
  - In general: accuracy vs. effort tradeoff
  - High analysis techniques struggle to respond in real time

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## OTHER SWAPPING POLICIES

- **Page swaps / writes**
  - Group/cluster pages together
  - Collect pending writes, perform as batch
  - Grouping disk writes helps amortize latency costs
- **Thrashing**
  - Occurs when system runs many memory intensive processes and is low in memory
  - Everything is constantly swapped to-and-from disk

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## OTHER SWAPPING POLICIES - 2

- **Working sets**
  - Groups of related processes
  - When thrashing: prevent one or more working set(s) from running
  - Temporarily reduces memory burden
  - Allows some processes to run, reduces thrashing

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# CHAPTER 36: I/O DEVICES



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OBJECTIVES

- Chapter 36
  - I/O: Polling vs Interrupts
  - Programmed I/O (PIO)
    - Port-mapped I/O (PMIO)
    - Memory-mapped I/O (MMIO)
  - Direct memory Access (DMA)

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I/O DEVICES

- Modern computer systems interact with a variety of devices

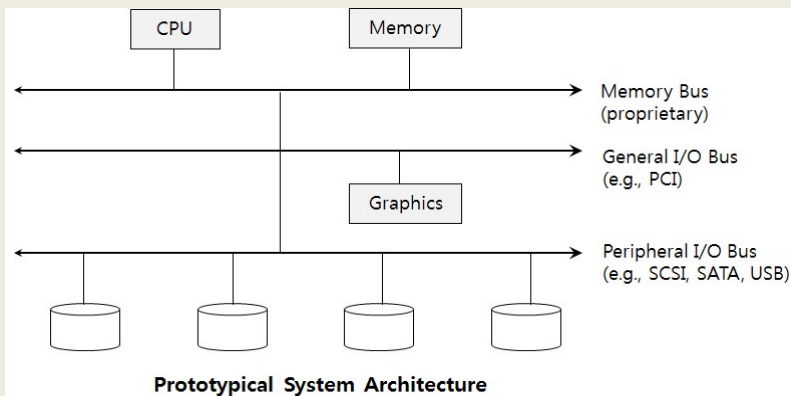
The diagram illustrates the interaction between modern computer systems and various I/O devices. It features two overlapping circles: 'input' on the left and 'output' on the right. The 'input' circle contains devices like Keyboard, Optical pen, Joystick, Scanner, and Bar code reader. The 'output' circle contains devices like Head phones, Head set, Laser printer, Screen, Plotter, Inkjet printer, and Speakers. The overlapping area contains devices that can function as both input and output, such as Digital camera, Pendrive, Touch screen, CD/DVD, Webcam, Fax, and Modem.

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## COMPUTER SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE



**VERY FAST:** CPU is attached to main memory via a Memory bus.

**FAST:** High speed devices (e.g. video) are connected via a General I/O bus.

**SLOWER:** Disks are connected via a Peripheral I/O bus.

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## I/O BUSES

- Buses
  - Buses closer to the CPU are faster
  - Can support fewer devices
  - Further buses are slower, but support more devices
- Physics and costs dictate “levels”
  - Memory bus
  - General I/O bus
  - Peripheral I/O bus
- Tradeoff space: speed vs. locality

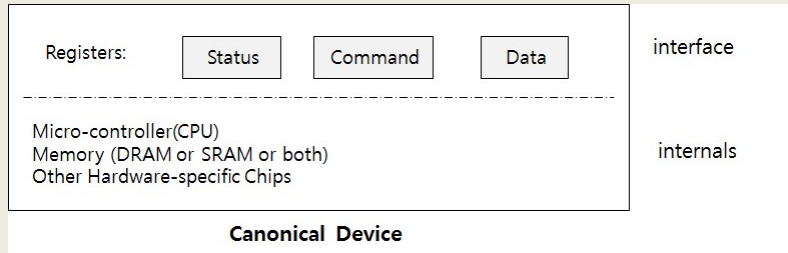
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## CANONICAL DEVICE

- Consider an arbitrary canonical ***“standard/generic”*** device



- Two primary components
  - Interface (registers for communication)
  - Internals: Local CPU, memory, specific chips, firmware (embedded software)

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## CANONICAL DEVICE: HARDWARE INTERFACE

- Status register
  - Maintains current device status
- Command register
  - Where commands for interaction are sent
- Data register
  - Used to send and receive data to the device

**General concept:**  
The OS interacts and controls device behavior  
by reading and writing the device registers.

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OS DEVICE INTERACTION

Common example of device interaction

```
while ( STATUS == BUSY)
; //wait until device is not busy
write data to data register
write command to command register
Doing so starts the device and executes the command
while ( STATUS == BUSY)
; //wait until device is done with your request
```

Poll- Is device available?

Command parameterization

Send command

Poll – Is device done?

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POLLING

OS checks if device is *READY* by repeatedly checking the STATUS register

Simple approach

CPU cycles are wasted without doing meaningful work

Ok if only a few cycles, for rapid devices that are often READY

BUT polling, as with “spin locks” we understand is inefficient

1 : task 1

P : polling

CPU

1 1 1 1 1

p p p p p

1 1 1 1 1

Disk

1 1 1 1 1

“waiting IO”

CPU utilization by polling

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## INTERRUPTS VS POLLING

- For longer waits, put process waiting on I/O to sleep
- Context switch (C/S) to another process
- When I/O completes, fire an interrupt to initiate C/S back
  - Advantage: better multi-tasking and CPU utilization
  - Avoids: unproductive CPU cycles (polling)

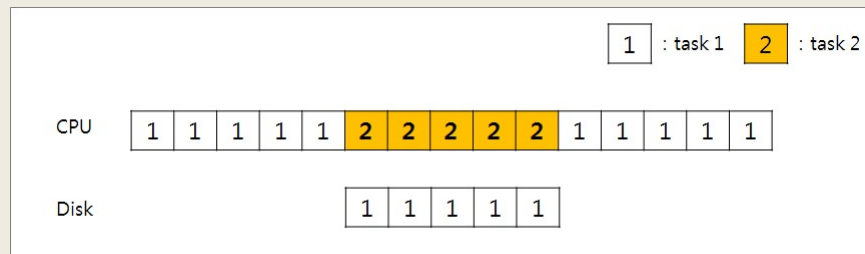


Diagram of CPU utilization by interrupt

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## INTERRUPTS VS POLLING - 2

### What is the tradeoff space ?

- Interrupts are not always the best solution
  - How long does the device I/O require?
  - What is the cost of context switching?

**If device I/O is fast → polling is better.**  
When I/O time < 1 CPU time slice (e.g. 10 ms)

**If device I/O is slow → interrupts are better.**  
When I/O time > 1 CPU time slice

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INTERRUPTS VS POLLING - 3


- Alternative: two-phase hybrid approach
  - Initially poll, then sleep and use interrupts
- Issue: livelock problem
  - Common with network I/O
  - Many arriving packets generate **many many** interrupts
  - Overloads the CPU!
  - No time to execute code, just interrupt handlers !
- Livelock optimization
  - Coalesce multiple arriving packets (for different processes) into fewer interrupts
  - Must consider number of interrupts a device could generate

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TCSS 422 WILL RETURN  
AT ~2:45PM



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## DEVICE I/O

- To interact with a device we must send/receive DATA
- There are two general approaches:
  - Programmed I/O (PIO):
    - Port mapped I/O (PMIO)
    - Memory mapped I/O (MMIO)
  - Direct memory access (DMA)

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Transfer Modes			
Mode	#	Maximum transfer rate (MB/s)	cycle time
PIO	0	3.3	600 ns
	1	5.2	383 ns
	2	8.3	240 ns
	3	11.1	180 ns
	4	16.7	120 ns
Single-word DMA	0	2.1	960 ns
	1	4.2	480 ns
	2	8.3	240 ns
Multi-word DMA	0	4.2	480 ns
	1	13.3	150 ns
	2	16.7	120 ns
	3 <sup>[34]</sup>	20	100 ns
	4 <sup>[34]</sup>	25	80 ns
Ultra DMA	0	16.7	240 ns + 2
	1	25.0	160 ns + 2
	2 (Ultra ATA/33)	33.3	120 ns + 2
	3	44.4	90 ns + 2
	4 (Ultra ATA/66)	66.7	60 ns + 2
	5 (Ultra ATA/100)	100	40 ns + 2
	6 (Ultra ATA/133)	133	30 ns + 2
	7 (Ultra ATA/167) <sup>[35]</sup>	167	24 ns + 2

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallel\\_ATA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parallel_ATA)

# PROGRAMMED I/O (PIO)

- I/O performed on the CPU
- CPU time is consumed performing I/O
- CPU supports data movement (input/output)
- PIO is slow: CPU is occupied with meaningless work

**PIO**

“over-burdened”

1 : task 1    2 : task 2  
C : copy data from memory

CPU

1	1	1	1	C	C	C	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Disk

1	1	1	1	1
---	---	---	---	---

Diagram of CPU utilization

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# PIO DEVICES

- Legacy serial ports
- Legacy parallel ports
- PS/2 keyboard and mouse
- Legacy MIDI, joysticks
- Old network interfaces

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## PROGRAMMED I/O DEVICE (PIO) INTERACTION

- Two primary PIO methods
  - Port mapped I/O (PMIO)
  - Memory mapped I/O (MMIO)

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## PORT MAPPED I/O (PMIO)

- Device specific CPU I/O Instructions
- Follows a CISC model:  
specific CPU instructions used for device I/O
- x86-x86-64: `in` and `out` instructions
- `outb`, `outw`, `outl`
- 1, 2, 4 byte copy from EAX → device's I/O port

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MEMORY MAPPED I/O (MMIO)

- Device’s memory is mapped to standard memory addresses
- MMIO is common with RISC CPUs:  
Special CPU instructions for PIO eliminated
- Old days: 16-bit CPUs didn’t have a lot of spare memory space
- Today’s CPUs have LARGE address spaces:  
32-bit (4GB addr space) & 64-bit (128 TB addr space)
- Device I/O uses regular CPU instructions usually used to read/write memory to access device
- Device is mapped to unique memory address **reserved** for I/O
  - Address must not be available for normal memory operations.
  - Generally very high addresses (out of range of type addresses)
- Device monitors CPU address bus and respond to instructions on their addresses

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DIRECT MEMORY ACCESS (DMA)

- Copy data in memory by **offloading** to “DMA controller”
- Many devices (including CPUs) integrate DMA controllers
- CPU gives DMA: memory address, size, and copy instruction
- DMA performs I/O independent of the CPU
- DMA controller generates CPU interrupt when I/O completes

The diagram illustrates the sequence of operations for a DMA transfer. It consists of three horizontal timelines: CPU, DMA, and Disk. The CPU timeline starts with four '1's (task 1) and then eight '2's (task 2), ending with three '1's. The DMA timeline shows three 'C's (copy data from memory) occurring while the CPU is executing task 2. The Disk timeline shows five '1's occurring while the DMA controller is copying data. A legend at the top right identifies '1' as task 1, '2' as task 2, and 'C' as copy data from memory.

Component	Activity Sequence
CPU	1, 1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1, 1, 1
DMA	C, C, C
Disk	1, 1, 1, 1, 1

Diagram of CPU utilization by DMA

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## DIRECTORY MEMORY ACCESS – 2

- Many devices use DMA
  - HDD/SSD controllers (ISA/PCI)
  - Graphics cards
  - Network cards
  - Sound cards
  - Intra-chip memory transfer for multi-core processors
- DMA allows computation and data transfer time to proceed in parallel

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## DEVICE INTERACTION

- The OS must interact with a variety of devices
- Example: Consider a file system that works across a variety of types of disks:
  - SCSI, IDE, USB flash drive, DVD, etc.
- File system should be general purpose, where device specific I/O implementation details are abstracted
- **Device drivers** use abstraction to provide general interfaces for vendor specific hardware
- In Linux: block devices

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## FILE SYSTEM ABSTRACTION

- Layers of I/O abstraction in Linux
- C functions (open, read, write) issue **block read and write** requests to the generic block layer

The diagram illustrates the File System Stack, divided into user and kernel spaces by a dashed line. The layers from top to bottom are: Application (user space), File System (kernel space), Generic Block Layer (kernel space), and Device Driver [SCSI, ATA, etc] (kernel space). The Application layer uses the POSIX API [open, read, write, close, etc] to interact with the File System layer. The File System layer uses the Generic Block Interface [block read/write] to interact with the Generic Block Layer. The Generic Block Layer uses the Specific Block Interface [protocol-specific read/write] to interact with the Device Driver layer.

The File System Stack


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## FILE SYSTEM ABSTRACTION ISSUES

- Too much abstraction**
  - Many devices provide special capabilities
  - Example: SCSI Error handling
  - SCSI devices provide extra details which are lost to the OS
- Buggy device drivers**
  - 70% of OS code is in device drivers
  - Device drivers are required for every device plugged in
  - Drivers are often 3<sup>rd</sup> party, which is not quality controlled at the same level as the OS (Linux, Windows, MacOS, etc.)

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# CH. 37: HARD DISK DRIVES



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## OBJECTIVES – 6/2

- Questions from 5/28
- Tutorial 2 (pthreads, locks, conditions) – due Thurs June 4
- Quiz 3 posted – Active Reading Ch. 19 – due Tues June 2
- Assignment 3 – on Linux kernel programming – offered in “tutorial” format – due Sat June 13
- Quiz 4 – Page Tables
- Practice Final Exam Questions – Thursday – 2<sup>nd</sup> hour
- Chapter 22: Cache Replacement Policies: Workload Examples
- Chapter 36: I/O Devices
  - Polling vs. Interrupts, Programmed I/O, Direct Memory Access
- Chatper 37: Hard Disk Drives

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## OBJECTIVES

- Chapter 37
  - HDD Internals
  - Seek time
  - Rotational latency
  - Transfer speed
  - Capacity
  - Scheduling algorithms

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## HARD DISK DRIVE (HDD)

- Primary means of data storage (persistence) for decades
  - Remains inexpensive for high capacity storage
  - 2020: 16 TB HDD - \$400, ~15.3 TB SSD - \$4,380
- Consists of a large number of data **sectors**
- Sector size is 512-bytes
- An  $n$  sector HDD  
can be addressed as an array of  $0..n-1$  sectors

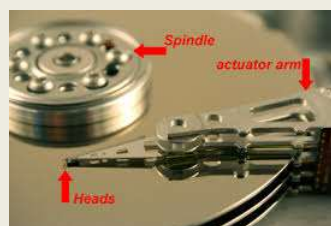
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## HDD INTERFACE

- Writing disk sectors is atomic (512 bytes)
- Sector writes are completely successful, or fail
- Many file systems will read/write 4KB at a time
  - Linux ext3/4 default filesystem blocksize – 4096
- Same as typical memory page size



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## BLOCK SIZE IN LINUX EXT4

- `mkefs.ext4 -i <bytes-per-inode>`
- Formats disk w/ ext4 filesystem with specified byte-to-inode ratio
- Today's disks are so large, some use cases with many small files can run out of inodes before running out of disk space
- Each inode record tracks a file on the disk
- Larger bytes-per-inode ratio results in fewer inodes
  - Default is around ~4096
- Value shouldn't be smaller than blocksize of filesystem
- **Note:** It is not possible to expand the number of inodes after the filesystem is created, - be careful deciding the value
- Check inode stats: `tune2fs -l /dev/sda1` (← disk dev name)

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## EXAMPLE: USDA SOIL EROSION MODEL WEB SERVICE (RUSLE2)

- Host ~2,000,000 small XML files totaling 9.5 GB on a ~20GB filesystem on a cloud-based Virtual Machine
- With default inode ratio (4096 block size), only ~488,000 files will fit
- Drive less than half full, but files will not fit !
- HDDs support a minimum block size of 512 bytes
- OS filesystems such as ext3/ext4 can support “finer grained” management at the expense of a larger catalog size
  - Small inode ratio- inodes will considerable % of disk space

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## EXAMPLE: USDA SOIL EROSION MODEL WEB SERVICE (RUSLE2) - 2

- Free space in bytes (df)

Device	total size	bytes-used	bytes-free	usage
/dev/vda2	13315844	9556412	3049188	76% /mnt

- Free inodes (df -i) @ 512 bytes / node

Device	total inodes	used	free	usage
/dev/vda2	3552528	1999823	1552705	57% /mnt

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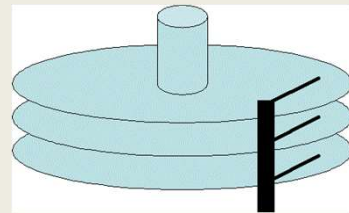
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## HDD INTERFACE - 2

- **Torn write**
  - When OS uses larger block size than HDD
  - Block writes not **atomic** - they **SPAN** multiple HDD sectors
  - Upon power failure only a portion of the OS block is written – *can lead to data corruption...*
- **HDD access**
  - Sequential reads of sectors is fastest
  - Random sector reads are slow
  - Disk head continuously must jump to different tracks



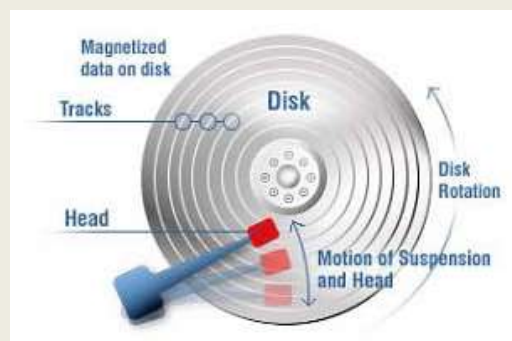
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## HDD PLATTER

- Made from aluminum coated with thin magnetic layer
- HDD records on both sides of each platter
- Data is stored by inducing magnetic changes



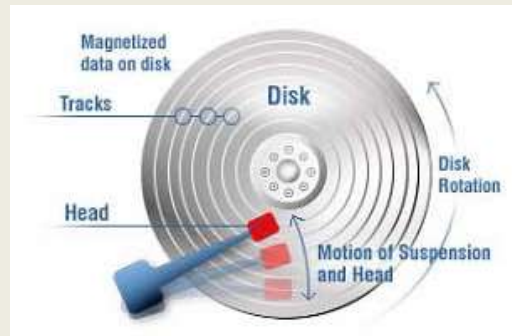
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## HDD SPINDLE

- Connected to motor which spins the disk
- Speed measures in RPM (rotations per minute)
- Typical: 7200-15000 rpm
- 10000 rpm – 1 rotation in 6ms; 15k rpm 1 rotation in 4ms



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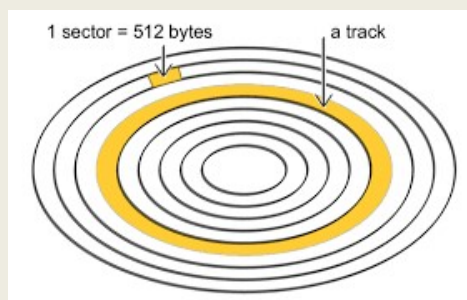
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## HDD TRACK

- Concentric circle of sectors
- Single side of platter contains 290 K tracks (2008)
- Zones: groups of tracks with same # of sectors

**Outer tracks have  
More sectors**



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EXAMPLE: SIMPLE DISK DRIVE

- Single track disk
- Head: one per surface of drive
- Arm: moves heads across surface of platters

A Single Track Plus A Head

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HARD DISK STRUCTURE

track  $t$

sector  $s$

cylinder  $c$

platter

spindle

arm assembly

read-write head

arm

rotation

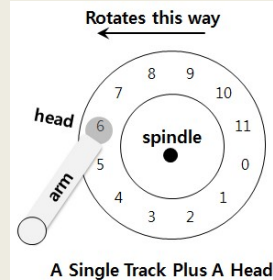
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## SINGLE-TRACK LATENCY: THE ROTATIONAL DELAY

- **Rotational latency** ( $T_{\text{rotation}}$ ): time to rotate to desired sector
- Average  $T_{\text{rotation}}$  is ~ about half the time of a full rotation
- How to calculate  $T_{\text{rotation}}$  from rpm
  1. Calculate time for 1 rotation based on rpm  
> Convert rpm to rps
  2. Divide by two (*average rotational latency*)
- 7200rpm = 8.33ms per rotation / 2 = ~4.166ms
- 10000rpm = 6ms per rotation / 2 = ~3ms
- 15000rpm = 4ms per rotation / 2 = ~2ms

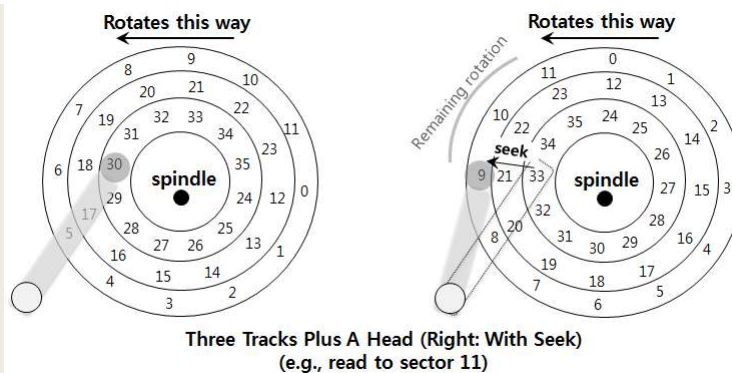


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## SEEK TIME



- **Seek time** ( $T_{\text{seek}}$ ): time to move disk arm to proper track
- Most time consuming HDD operation

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## FOUR PHASES OF SEEK

- Acceleration → coasting → deceleration → settling
- Acceleration: the arm gets moving
- Coasting: arm moving at full speed
- Deceleration: arm slow down
- Settling: Head is carefully positioned over track
  - Settling time is often high, from .5 to 2ms

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## HDD I/O

- Data transfer
  - Final phase of I/O: time to read or write to disk surface
- Complete I/O cycle:
  1. Seek (accelerate, coast, decelerate, settle)
  2. Wait on rotational latency (*until track aligns*)
  3. Data transfer

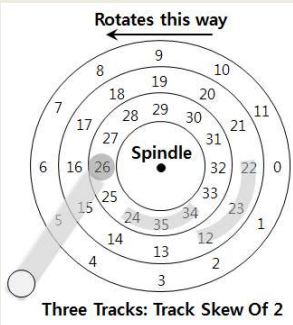
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TRACK SKEW

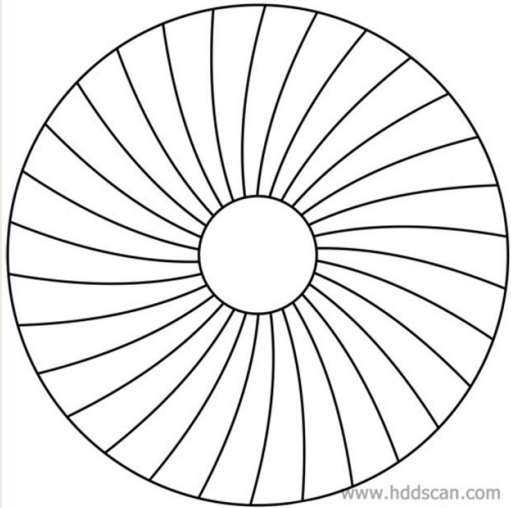
- Sectors are offset across tracks to allow time for head to reposition for sequential reads
- Without track skew, when head is repositioned sector would have already been passed



Three Tracks: Track Skew Of 2

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TRACK SKEW - 2



www.hddscan.com

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## HDD CACHE

- Buffer to support caching reads and writes
- Improves drive response time
- Up to 256 MB, slowly have been growing
- Two styles
  - Writeback cache
    - Report write complete immediately when data is transferred to HDD cache
    - Dangerous if power is lost
  - Writethrough cache
    - Reports write complete only when write is physically completed on disk

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## TRANSFER SPEED

- Can calculate I/O transfer speed with:

- I/O Time:  $T_{I/O} = T_{seek} + T_{rotation} + T_{transfer}$

- $T_{transfer} = \text{DATA}_{size} \times \text{Rate}_{I/O}$

- Rate of I/O:  $R_{I/O} = \frac{\text{Size}_{transfer}}{T_{I/O}}$

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EXAMPLE: I/O SPEED

■ Compare two disks:

1. Random workload: 4KB (random read on HDD)

2. Sequential workload: 100MB (contiguous sectors)

> Calculate  $T_{\text{rotation}}$  from rpm (rpm  $\rightarrow$  rps, time for 1 rotation / 2)

	Cheetah 15K.5	Barracuda
Capacity	300 GB	1 TB
RPM	15,000	7,200
Average Seek	4 ms	9 ms
Max Transfer	125 MB/s	105 MB/s
Platters	4	4
Cache	16 MB	16/32 MB
Connects Via	SCSI	SATA

Disk Drive Specs: SCSI Versus SATA

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EXAMPLE: I/O SPEED

1. Random workload: 4KB (random read on HDD)

2. Sequential workload: 100MB (contiguous sectors)

$$T_{I/O} = T_{\text{seek}} + T_{\text{rotation}} + T_{\text{transfer}}$$
$$T_{\text{transfer}} = \text{Data}_{\text{size}} \times \text{Rate}_{I/O}$$
$$R_{I/O} = \frac{\text{Size}_{\text{transfer}}}{T_{I/O}}$$

		Cheetah 15K.5	Barracuda
$T_{\text{seek}}$		4 ms	9 ms
$T_{\text{rotation}}$		2 ms	4.2 ms
4 KB Random	$T_{\text{transfer}}$	30 microsecs	38 microsecs
	$T_{I/O}$	6 ms	13.2 ms
	$R_{I/O}$	0.66 MB/s	0.31 MB/s
100 MB Sequential	$T_{\text{transfer}}$	800 ms	950 ms
	$T_{I/O}$	806 ms	963.2 ms
	$R_{I/O}$	125 MB/s	105 MB/s

Disk Drive Performance: SCSI Versus SATA

There is a huge gap in drive throughput between random and sequential workloads

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## MODERN HDD SPECS

- See sample HDD configurations here:
  - Up to 20 TB
- <https://www.westerndigital.com/products/data-center-drives#hard-disk-hdd>

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## DISK SCHEDULING

- Disk scheduler: determine how to order I/O requests
- Multiple levels - OS and HW
- OS: provides ordering
- HW: further optimizes using intricate details of physical HDD implementation and state

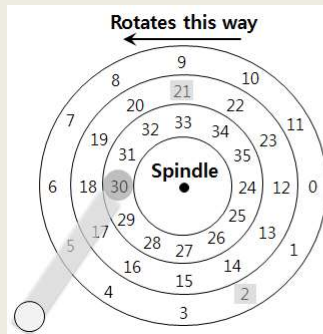
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## SSTF – SHORTEST SEEK TIME FIRST

- Disk scheduling – which I/O request to schedule next
- Shortest Seek Time First (SSTF)
- Order queue of I/O requests by nearest track



SSTF: Scheduling Request 21 and 2  
Issue the request to 21 → issue the request to 2

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## SSTF ISSUES

- Problem 1: HDD abstraction
- Drive geometry not available to OS. Nearest-block-first is a comparable alternate algorithm.
- Problem 2: Starvation
- Steady stream of requests for local tracks may prevent arm from traversing to other side of platter

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## DISK SCHEDULING ALGORITHMS

### ■ SCAN (SWEEP)

- Perform single repeated passes back and forth across disk
- Issue: if request arrives for a recently visited track it will not be revisited until a full cycle completes

### ■ F-SCAN

- Freeze incoming requests by adding to queue during scan
- Cache arriving requests until later
- Delays help avoid starvation by postponing servicing nearby newly arriving requests vs. requests at edge of sweep
- Provides better fairness

### ■ Elevator (C-SCAN) – circular scan

- Sweep only one direction (e.g. outer to inner) and repeat
- SCAN favors middle tracks vs. outer tracks with 2-way sweep

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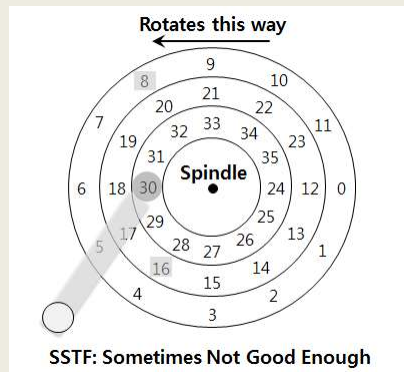
## SHORTEST TIME POSITIONING FIRST

### ■ Determine next sector to read?

- Where:  $T_{seek} = T_{rotation}$

### ■ On which track?

### ■ On which sector?



On modern drives, both seek and rotation are roughly equivalent:  
**Thus, SPTF (Shortest Positioning Time First) is useful.**

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## OPTIMIZATION: I/O MERGING

- Group temporary adjacent requests
- Reduce overhead
- Read (memory blocks): 33 8 34
- How long we should wait for I/O ?
- When do we know we have waited too long?

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## QUESTIONS



WJL1

**WILL RETURN IN A FEW  
MINUTES**



