CS162
Operating Systems and Systems Programming
Lecture 16

General I/O

March 30th, 2015

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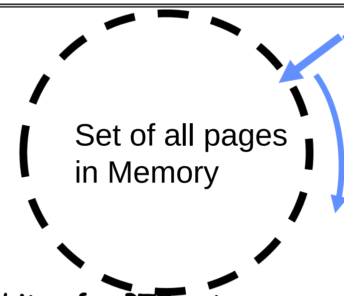
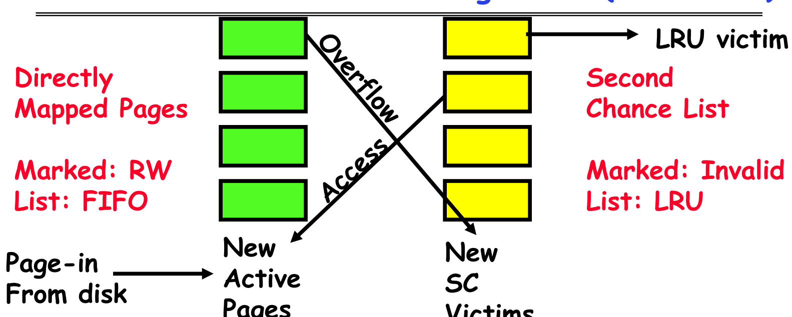
Recall: Clock Algorithm (Not Recently Used)



Single Clock Hand:
Advances only on page fault!
Check for pages not used recently
Mark pages as not used recently

- Which bits of a PTE entry are useful to us?
  - Use: Set when page is referenced; cleared by clock algorithm
  - Modified: set when page is modified, cleared when page written to disk
  - Valid: ok for program to reference this page
  - Read-only: ok for program to read page, but not modify
    - » For example for catching modifications to code pages!
- Clock Algorithm: pages arranged in a ring
  - On page fault:
    - » Advance clock hand (not real time)
    - » Check use bit: 1→used recently; clear and leave alone
      0→selected candidate for replacement
  - Crude partitioning of pages into two groups: young and old

Recall: Second-Chance List Algorithm (VAX/VMS)



- Split memory in two: Active list (RW), SC list (Invalid)
- Access pages in Active list at full speed
- Otherwise, Page Fault
  - Always move overflow page from end of Active list to front of Second-chance list (SC) and mark invalid
  - Desired Page On SC List: move to front of Active list, mark RW
  - Not on SC list: page in to front of Active list, mark RW; page out LRU victim at end of SC list

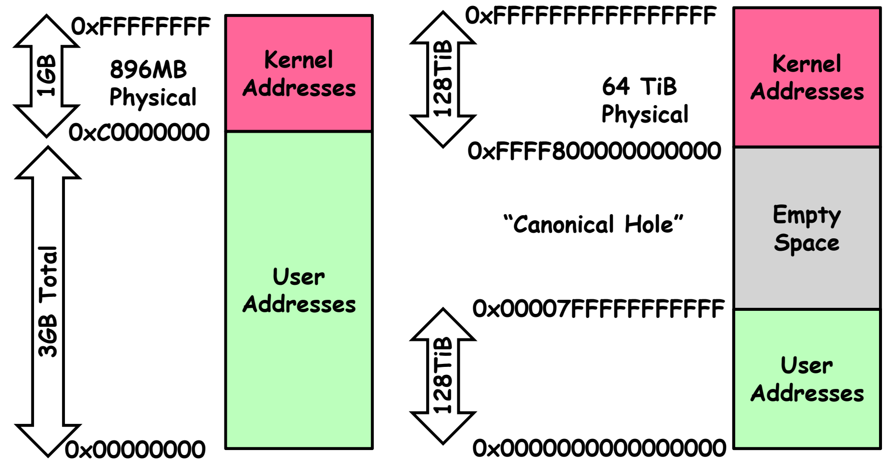
Reverse Page Mapping (Sometimes called "Coremap")

- Physical page frames often shared by many different address spaces/page tables
  - All children forked from given process
  - Shared memory pages between processes
- Whatever reverse mapping mechanism that is in place must be very fast
  - Must hunt down all page tables pointing at given page frame when freeing a page
  - Must hunt down all PTEs when seeing if pages "active"
- Implementation options:
  - For every page descriptor, keep linked list of page table entries that point to it
    - » Management nightmare – expensive
  - Linux 2.6: Object-based reverse mapping
    - » Link together memory region descriptors instead (much coarser granularity)

Linux Memory Details?

- Memory management in Linux considerably more complex that the previous indications
- Memory Zones: physical memory categories
  - ZONE_DMA: < 16MB memory, DMAable on ISA bus
  - ZONE_NORMAL: 16MB ⇒ 896MB (mapped at 0xC0000000)
  - ZONE_HIGHMEM: Everything else (> 896MB)
- Each zone has 1 freelist, 2 LRU lists (Active/Inactive)
- Many different types of allocation
  - SLAB allocators, per-page allocators, mapped/unmapped
- Many different types of allocated memory:
  - Anonymous memory (not backed by a file, heap/stack)
  - Mapped memory (backed by a file)
- Allocation priorities
  - Is blocking allowed/etc

Recall: Linux Virtual memory map



32-Bit Virtual Address Space   64-Bit Virtual Address Space

Virtual Map (Details)

- Kernel memory not generally visible to user
  - Exception: special VDSO facility that maps kernel code into user space to aid in system calls (and to provide certain actual system calls such as gettimeofday().
- Every physical page described by a "page" structure
  - Collected together in lower physical memory
  - Can be accessed in kernel virtual space
  - Linked together in various "LRU" lists
- For 32-bit virtual memory architectures:
  - When physical memory < 896MB
    - » All physical memory mapped at 0xC0000000
  - When physical memory >= 896MB
    - » Not all physical memory mapped in kernel space all the time
    - » Can be temporarily mapped with addresses > 0xCC000000
- For 64-bit virtual memory architectures:
  - All physical memory mapped above 0xFFFF800000000000

Internal Interfaces: Allocating Memory

- One mechanism for requesting pages: everything else on top of this mechanism:
  - Allocate contiguous group of pages of size 2^{order} bytes given the specified mask:

```
struct page * alloc_pages(gfp_t gfp_mask,
                          unsigned int order)
```

  - Allocate one page:

```
struct page * alloc_page(gfp_t gfp_mask)
```

  - Convert page to logical address (assuming mapped):

```
void * page_address(struct page *page)
```

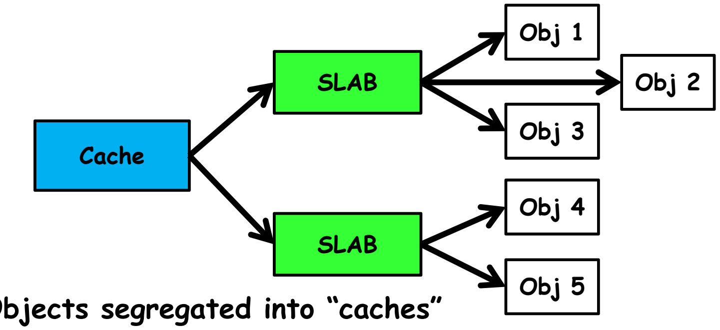
- Also routines for freeing pages
- Zone allocator uses "buddy" allocator that tries to keep memory unfragmented
- Allocation routines pick from proper zone, given flags

Page Frame Reclaiming Algorithm (PFRA)

- Several entrypoints:
  - Low on Memory Reclaiming: The kernel detects a "low on memory" condition
  - Hibernation reclaiming: The kernel must free memory because it is entering in the suspend-to-disk state
  - Periodic reclaiming: A kernel thread is activated periodically to perform memory reclaiming, if necessary
- Low on Memory reclaiming:
  - Start flushing out dirty pages to disk
  - Start looping over all memory nodes in the system
    - » try_to_free_pages()
    - » shrink_slab()
    - » pdflush kernel thread writing out dirty pages
- Periodic reclaiming:
  - Kswapd kernel threads: checks if number of free page frames in some zone has fallen below pages_high watermark
  - Each zone keeps two LRU lists: Active and Inactive
    - » Each page has a last-chance algorithm with 2 count
    - » Active page lists moved to inactive list when they have been idle for two cycles through the list
    - » Pages reclaimed from Inactive list

SLAB Allocator

- Replacement for free-lists that are hand-coded by users
  - Consolidation of all of this code under kernel control
  - Efficient when objects allocated and freed frequently



- Objects segregated into "caches"
  - Each cache stores different type of object
  - Data inside cache divided into "slabs", which are continuous groups of pages (often only 1 page)
  - Key idea: avoid memory fragmentation

SLAB Allocator Details

- Based on algorithm first introduced for SunOS
  - Observation: amount of time required to initialize a regular object in the kernel exceeds the amount of time required to allocate and deallocate it
  - Resolves around object caching
    - » Allocate once, keep reusing objects
- Avoids memory fragmentation:
  - Caching of similarly sized objects, avoid fragmentation
  - Similar to custom freelist per object
- Reuse of allocation
  - When new object first allocated, constructor runs
  - On subsequent free/reallocation, constructor does not need to be reexecuted

SLAB Allocator: Cache Use

- Example:

```
task_struct_cachep =
    kmem_cache_create("task_struct",
                      sizeof(struct task_struct),
                      ARCH_MIN_TASKALIGN,
                      SLAB_PANIC | SLAB_NOTRACK,
                      NULL);
```

- Use of example:

```
struct task_struct *tsk;

tsk = kmem_cache_alloc(task_struct_cachep, GFP_KERNEL);
if (!tsk)
    return NULL;

kmem_free(task_struct_cachep,tsk);
```

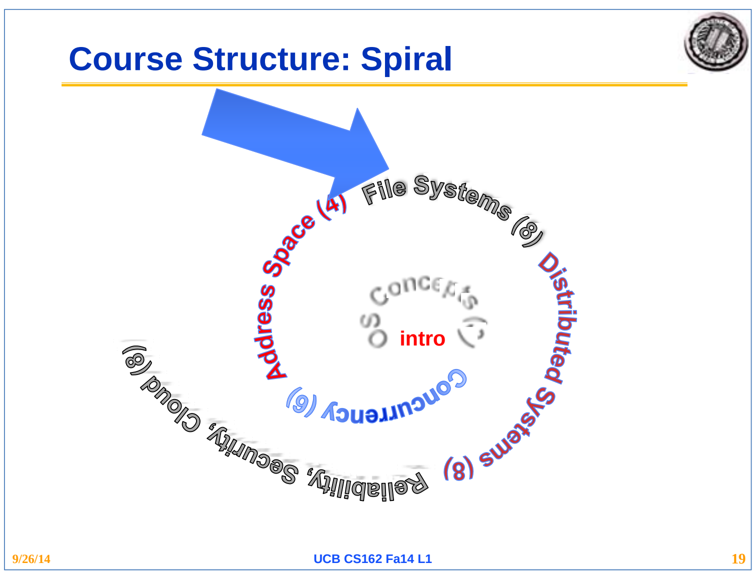
SLAB Allocator Details (Con't)

- Caches can be later destroyed with:
```
int kmem_cache_destroy(struct kmem_cache *cachep);
```
  - Assuming that all objects freed
  - No one ever tries to use cache again
- All caches kept in global list
  - Including global caches set up with objects of powers of 2 from 2^5 to 2^{17}
  - General kernel allocation (kmalloc/kfree) uses least-fit for requested cache size
- Reclamation of memory
  - Caches keep sorted list of empty, partial, and full slabs
    - » Easy to manage – slab metadata contains reference count
    - » Objects within slabs linked together
  - Ask individual caches for full slabs for reclamation

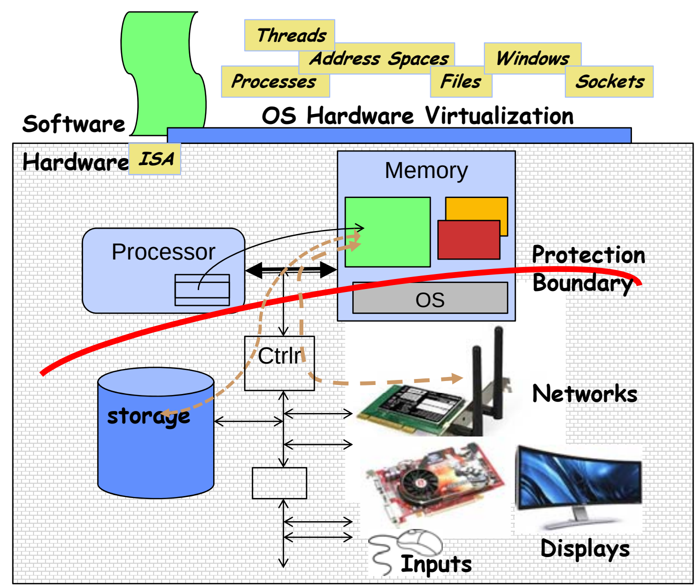
Administrivia

- Welcome back from Spring Break!
- Midterm I: still grading
  - But almost done!
- Checkpoint 1 for Proj 2 due tonight

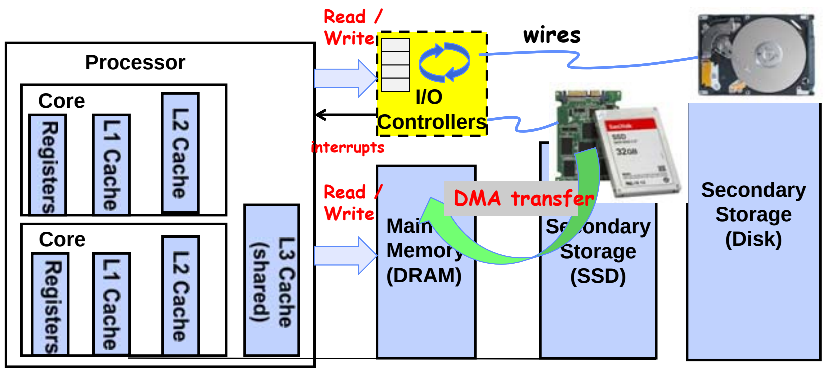
You are here …



OS Basics: I/O



In a picture



- I/O devices you recognize are supported by I/O Controllers
- Processors accesses them by reading and writing IO registers as if they were memory
  - Write commands and arguments, read status and results

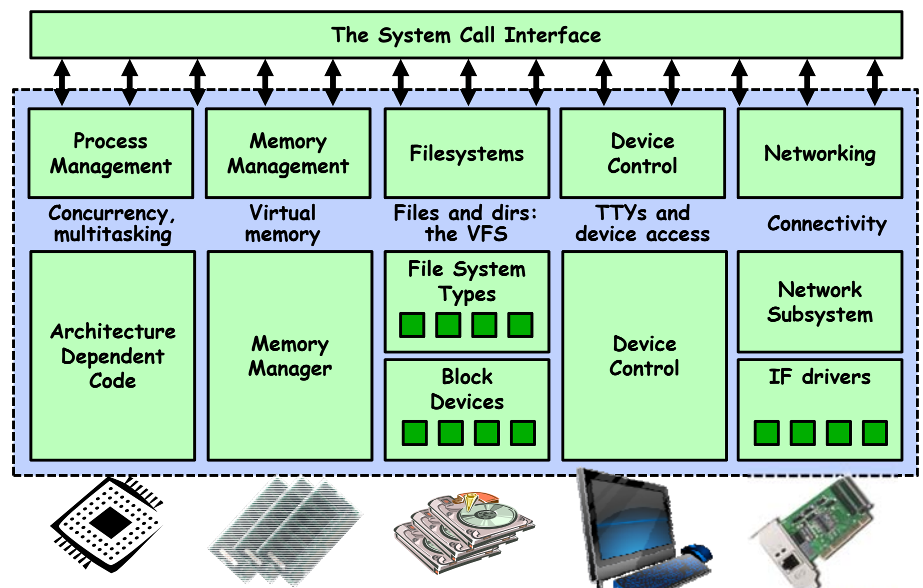
The Requirements of I/O

- So far in this course:
  - We have learned how to manage CPU, memory
- What about I/O?
  - Without I/O, computers are useless (disembodied brains?)
  - But… thousands of devices, each slightly different
    - » How can we standardize the interfaces to these devices?
  - Devices unreliable: media failures and transmission errors
    - » How can we make them reliable???
  - Devices unpredictable and/or slow
    - » How can we manage them if we don't know what they will do or how they will perform?

Operational Parameters for I/O

- Data granularity: Byte vs. Block
  - Some devices provide single byte at a time (e.g., keyboard)
  - Others provide whole blocks (e.g., disks, networks, etc.)
- Access pattern: Sequential vs. Random
  - Some devices must be accessed sequentially (e.g., tape)
  - Others can be accessed "randomly" (e.g., disk, cd, etc.)
    - » Fixed overhead to start sequential transfer (more later)
- Transfer Notification: Polling vs. Interrupts
  - Some devices require continual monitoring
  - Others generate interrupts when they need service
- Transfer Mechanism: Programmed IO and DMA

Kernel Device Structure



The Goal of the I/O Subsystem

- Provide Uniform Interfaces, Despite Wide Range of Different Devices
  - This code works on many different devices:

```
FILE fd = fopen("/dev/something","rw");
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
  fprintf(fd,"Count %d\n",i);
}
close(fd);
```

  - Why? Because code that controls devices ("device driver") implements standard interface.
- We will try to get a flavor for what is involved in actually controlling devices in rest of lecture
  - Can only scratch surface!

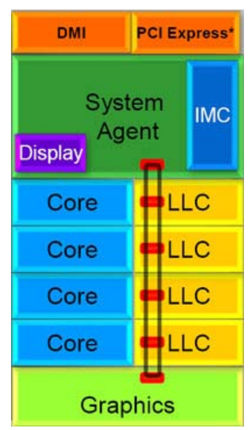
Want Standard Interfaces to Devices

- Block Devices: *e.g.* disk drives, tape drives, DVD-ROM
  - Access blocks of data
  - Commands include `open()`, `read()`, `write()`, `seek()`
  - Raw I/O or file-system access
  - Memory-mapped file access possible
- Character Devices: *e.g.* keyboards, mice, serial ports, some USB devices
  - Single characters at a time
  - Commands include `get()`, `put()`
  - Libraries layered on top allow line editing
- Network Devices: *e.g.* Ethernet, Wireless, Bluetooth
  - Different enough from block/character to have own interface
  - Unix and Windows include socket interface
    - » Separates network protocol from network operation
    - » Includes `select()` functionality
  - Usage: pipes, FIFOs, streams, queues, mailboxes

How Does User Deal with Timing?

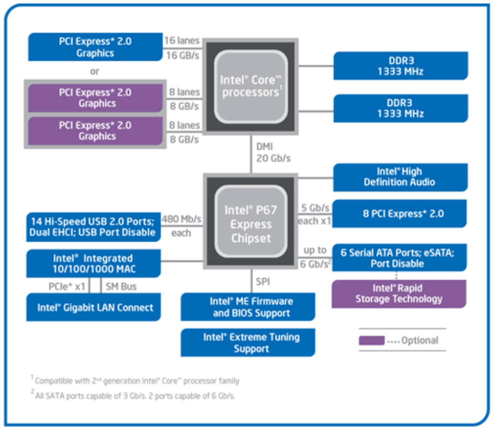
- Blocking Interface: "Wait"
  - When request data (e.g. `read()` system call), put process to sleep until data is ready
  - When write data (e.g. `write()` system call), put process to sleep until device is ready for data
- Non-blocking Interface: "Don't Wait"
  - Returns quickly from read or write request with count of bytes successfully transferred
  - Read may return nothing, write may write nothing
- Asynchronous Interface: "Tell Me Later"
  - When request data, take pointer to user's buffer, return immediately; later kernel fills buffer and notifies user
  - When send data, take pointer to user's buffer, return immediately; later kernel takes data and notifies user

Chip-scale features of Recent x86 (SandyBridge)



- Significant pieces:
  - Four OOO cores
    - » New Advanced Vector eXtensions (256-bit FP)
    - » AES instructions
    - » Instructions to help with Galois-Field mult
    - » 4 μ-ops/cycle
  - Integrated GPU
  - System Agent (Memory and Fast I/O)
  - Shared L3 cache divided in 4 banks
  - On-chip Ring bus network
    - » Both coherent and non-coherent transactions
    - » High-BW access to L3 Cache
- Integrated I/O
  - Integrated memory controller (IMC)
    - » Two independent channels of DDR3 DRAM
  - High-speed PCI-Express (for Graphics cards)
  - DMI Connection to SouthBridge (PCH)

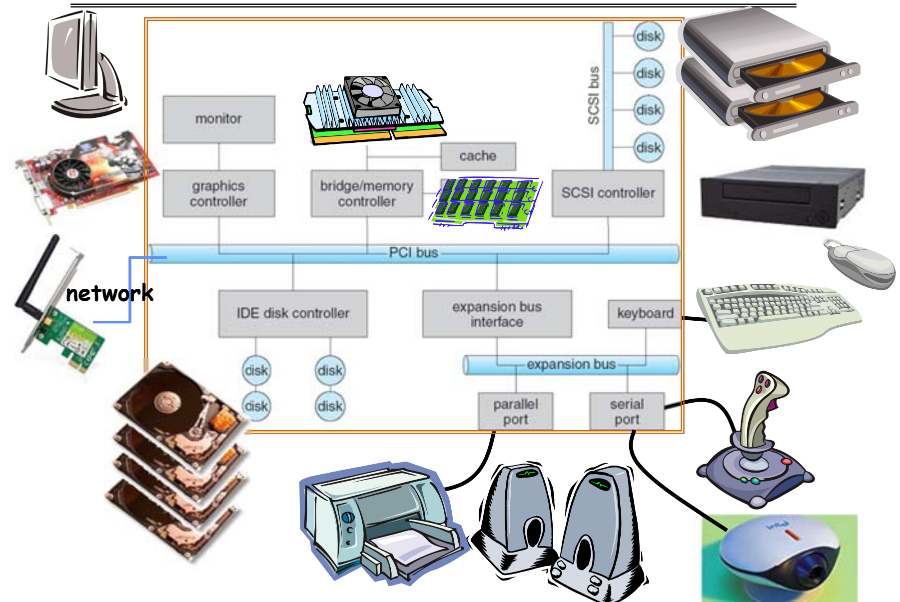
SandyBridge I/O: PCH



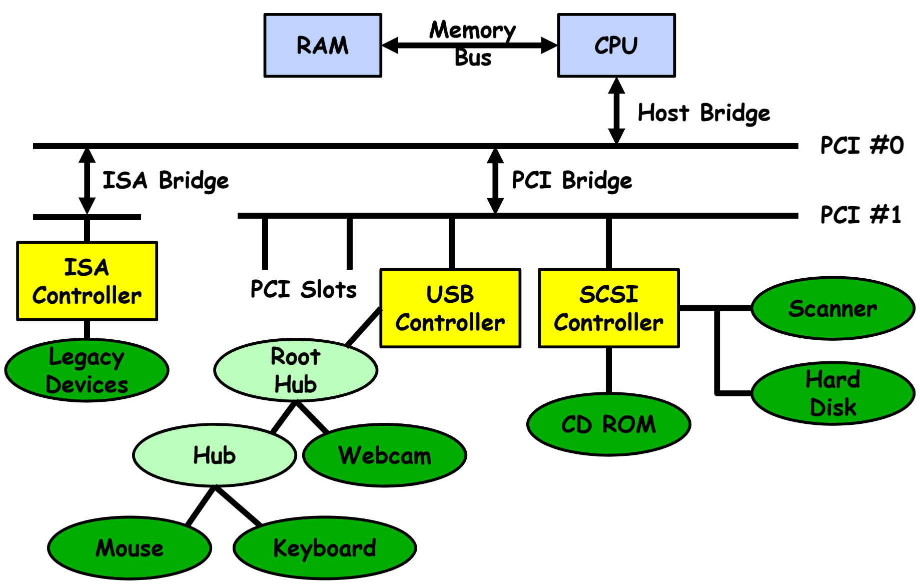
SandyBridge System Configuration

- Platform Controller Hub
  - Used to be "SouthBridge," but no "NorthBridge" now
  - Connected to processor with proprietary bus
    - » Direct Media Interface
  - Code name "Cougar Point" for SandyBridge processors
- Types of I/O on PCH:
  - USB
  - Ethernet
  - Audio
  - BIOS support
  - More PCI Express (lower speed than on Processor)
  - Sata (for Disks)

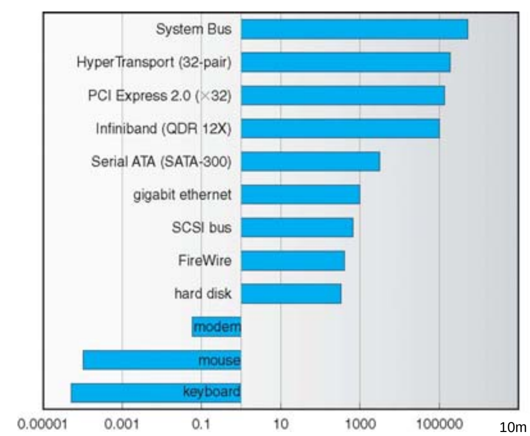
Modern I/O Systems



Example: PCI Architecture

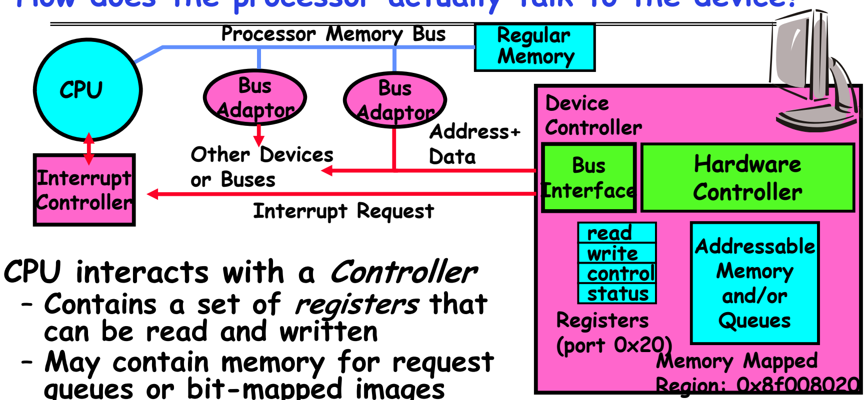


Example Device-Transfer Rates in Mb/s (Sun Enterprise 6000)



- Device Rates vary over 12 orders of magnitude !!!
  - System better be able to handle this wide range
  - Better not have high overhead/byte for fast devices!
  - Better not waste time waiting for slow devices

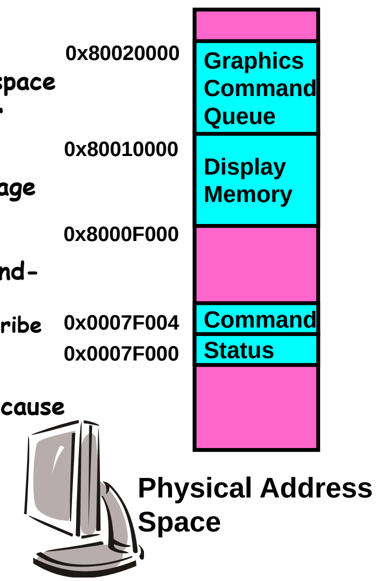
How does the processor actually talk to the device?



- CPU interacts with a *Controller*
  - Contains a set of *registers* that can be read and written
  - May contain memory for request queues or bit-mapped images
- Regardless of the complexity of the connections and buses, processor accesses registers in two ways:
  - I/O instructions: in/out instructions
    - » Example from the Intel architecture: `out 0x21,AL`
  - Memory mapped I/O: load/store instructions
    - » Registers/memory appear in physical address space
    - » I/O accomplished with load and store instructions

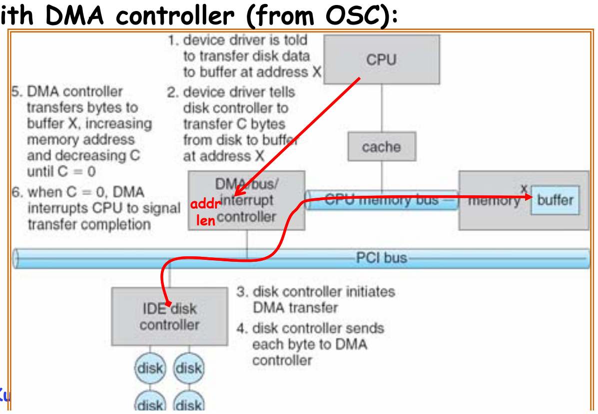
Example: Memory-Mapped Display Controller

- Memory-Mapped:
  - Hardware maps control registers and display memory into physical address space
    - » Addresses set by hardware jumpers or programming at boot time
  - Simply writing to display memory (also called the "frame buffer") changes image on screen
    - » Addr: 0x8000F000—0x8000FFFF
  - Writing graphics description to command-queue area
    - » Say enter a set of triangles that describe some scene
    - » Addr: 0x80010000—0x8001FFFF
  - Writing to the command register may cause on-board graphics hardware to do something
    - » Say render the above scene
    - » Addr: 0x0007F004
- Can protect with address translation



Transferring Data To/From Controller

- Programmed I/O:
  - Each byte transferred via processor in/out or load/store
  - Pro: Simple hardware, easy to program
  - Con: Consumes processor cycles proportional to data size
- Direct Memory Access:
  - Give controller access to memory bus
  - Ask it to transfer data blocks to/from memory directly
- Sample interaction with DMA controller (from OSC):



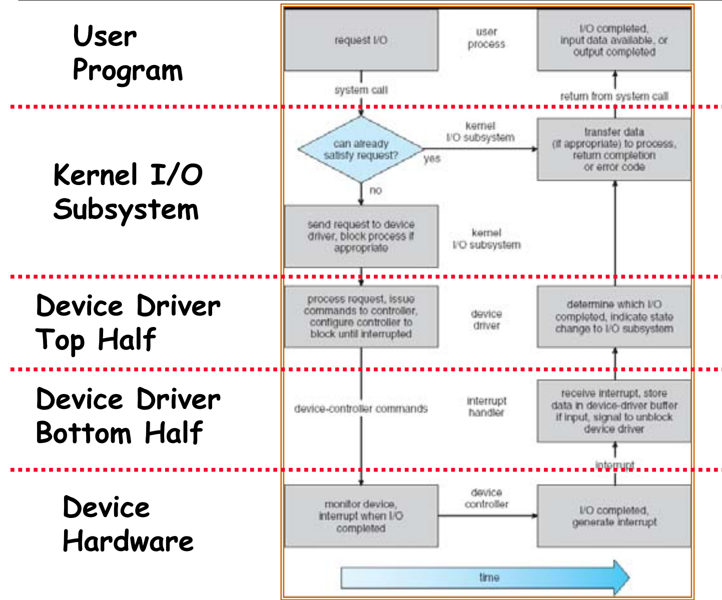
I/O Device Notifying the OS

- The OS needs to know when:
  - The I/O device has completed an operation
  - The I/O operation has encountered an error
- I/O Interrupt:
  - Device generates an interrupt whenever it needs service
  - Pro: handles unpredictable events well
  - Con: interrupts relatively high overhead
- Polling:
  - OS periodically checks a device-specific status register
    - » I/O device puts completion information in status register
  - Pro: low overhead
  - Con: may waste many cycles on polling if infrequent or unpredictable I/O operations
- Actual devices combine both polling and interrupts
  - For instance – High-bandwidth network adapter:
    - » Interrupt for first incoming packet
    - » Poll for following packets until hardware queues are empty

Device Drivers

- **Device Driver:** Device-specific code in the kernel that interacts directly with the device hardware
  - Supports a standard, internal interface
  - Same kernel I/O system can interact easily with different device drivers
  - Special device-specific configuration supported with the `ioctl()` system call
- Device Drivers typically divided into two pieces:
  - Top half: accessed in call path from system calls
    - » implements a set of standard, cross-device calls like `open()`, `close()`, `read()`, `write()`, `ioctl()`, `strategy()`
    - » This is the kernel's interface to the device driver
    - » Top half will *start* I/O to device, may put thread to sleep until finished
  - Bottom half: run as interrupt routine
    - » Gets input or transfers next block of output
    - » May wake sleeping threads if I/O now complete

Life Cycle of An I/O Request

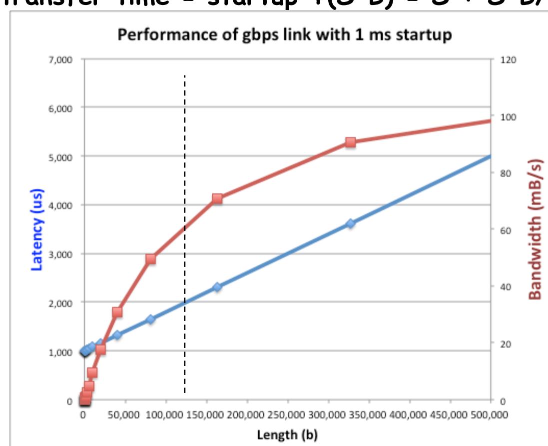


Basic Performance Concepts

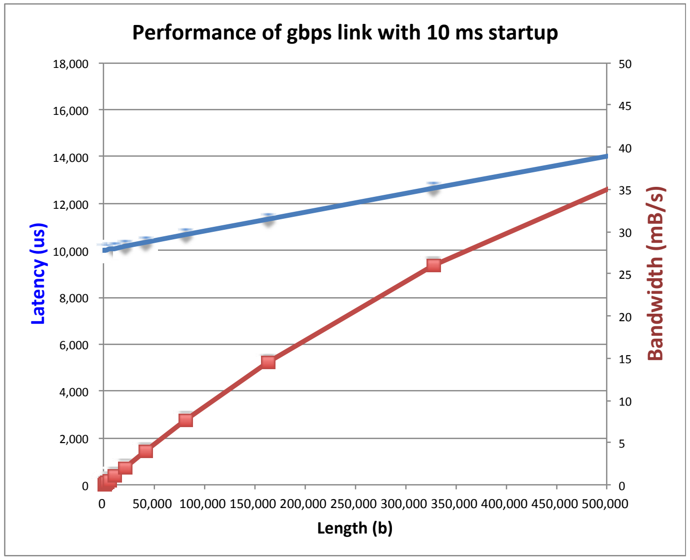
- ***Response Time* or *Latency*:** Time to perform an operation (s)
- ***Bandwidth* or *Throughput*:** Rate at which operations are performed (op/s)
  - Files: mB/s, Networks: mb/s, Arithmetic: GFLOP/s
- ***Start up* or "Overhead":** time to initiate an operation
- Most I/O operations are roughly linear
  - Latency (n) = Ovhd + n/Bandwidth

Example (fast network)

- Consider a gpbs link (125 MB/s)
- With a startup cost S = 1 ms
- Theorem: half-power point occurs at n=S*B:
  - When transfer time = startup T(S*B) = S + S*B/B



Example: at 10 ms startup (disk)



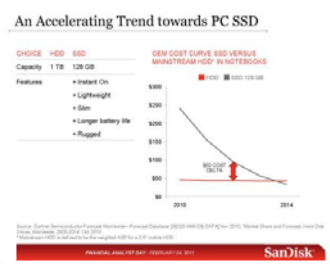
What determines peak BW for I/O ?

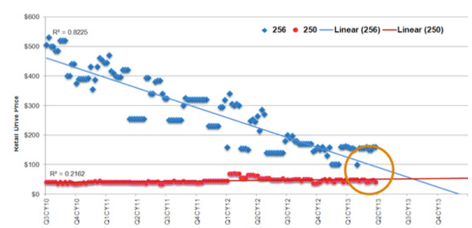
- Bus Speed
  - PCI-X: 1064 MB/s = 133 MHz x 64 bit (per lane)
  - ULTRA WIDE SCSI: 40 MB/s
  - Serial Attached SCSI & Serial ATA & IEEE 1394 (firewire) : 1.6 Gbps full duplex (200 MB/s)
  - USB 1.5 – 12 mb/s
- Device Transfer Bandwidth
  - Rotational speed of disk
  - Write / Read rate of nand flash
  - Signaling rate of network link
- Whatever is the bottleneck in the path

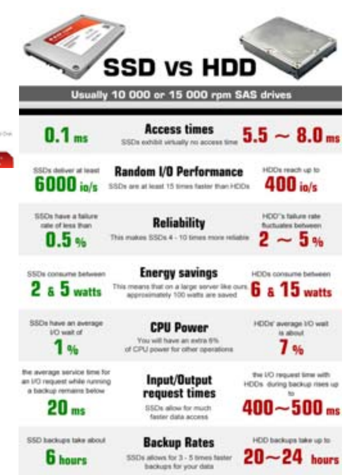
Storage Devices

- Magnetic disks
  - Storage that rarely becomes corrupted
  - Large capacity at low cost
  - Block level random access
  - Slow performance for random access
  - Better performance for streaming access
- Flash memory
  - Storage that rarely becomes corrupted
  - Capacity at intermediate cost (50x disk ???)
  - Block level random access
  - Good performance for reads; worse for random writes
  - Erasure requirement in large blocks
  - Wear patterns

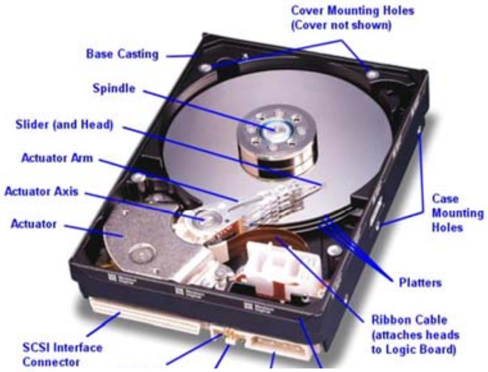
Are we in an inflection point?







Hard Disk Drives (HDDs)



Western Digital Drive
http://www.storagereview.com/guide/

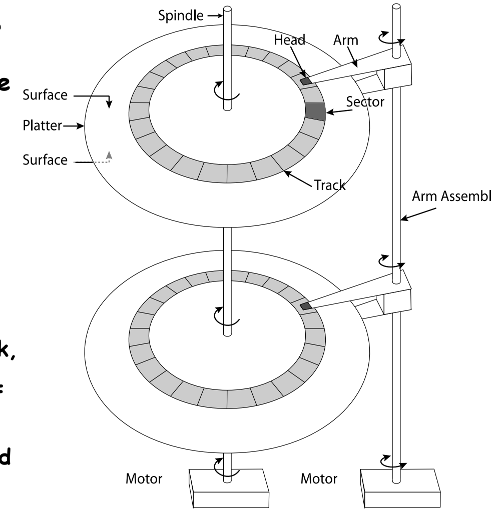
Read/Write Head Side View

IBM/Hitachi Microdrive

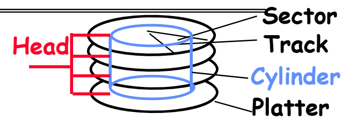
IBM Personal Computer/AT (1986)
- 30 MB hard disk - $500
- 30-40ms seek time
- 0.7-1 MB/s (est.)

The Amazing Magnetic Disk

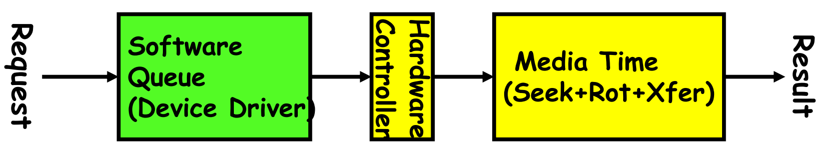
- Unit of Transfer: Sector
  - Ring of sectors form a track
  - Stack of tracks form a cylinder
  - Heads position on cylinders
- Disk Tracks ~ 1μm (micron) wide
  - Wavelength of light is ~ 0.5μm
  - Resolution of human eye: 50μm
  - 100K on a typical 2.5" disk
- Separated by unused guard regions
  - Reduces likelihood neighboring tracks are corrupted during writes (still a small non-zero chance)
- Track length varies across disk
  - Outside: More sectors per track, higher bandwidth
  - Disk is organized into regions of tracks with same # of sectors/track
  - Only outer half of radius is used
    - » Most of the disk area in the outer regions of the disk



Magnetic Disk Characteristic



- Cylinder: all the tracks under the head at a given point on all surfaces
- Read/write: three-stage process:
  - Seek time: position the head/arm over the proper track (into proper cylinder)
  - Rotational latency: wait for the desired sector to rotate under the read/write head
  - Transfer time: transfer a block of bits (sector) under the read-write head
- Disk Latency = Queuing Time + Controller time + Seek Time + Rotation Time + Xfer Time



- Highest Bandwidth:
  - Transfer large group of blocks sequentially from one track

Typical Numbers for Magnetic Disk

Parameter	Info / Range
Space/Density	Space: 8TB in 3½ inch form factor! (Seagate, Nov 2014) Areal Density: over 1Terabit/square inch (SMR)
Average seek time	Typically 5-10 milliseconds. Depending on reference locality, actual cost may be 25-33% of this number.
Average rotational latency	Most laptop/desktop disks rotate at 3600-7200 RPM (16-8 ms/rotation). Server disks up to 15,000 RPM. Average latency is halfway around disk yielding corresponding times of 8-4 milliseconds
Controller time	Depends on controller hardware
Transfer time	Typically 50 to 100 MB/s. Depends on: • Transfer size (usually a sector): 512B – 1KB per sector • Rotation speed: 3600 RPM to 15000 RPM • Recording density: bits per inch on a track • Diameter: ranges from 1 in to 5.25 in
Cost	Drops by a factor of two every 1.5 years (or even faster). $0.03-0.07/GB in 2013

Intelligence in the controller

- Sectors contain sophisticated error correcting codes
  - Disk head magnet has a field wider than track
  - Hide corruptions due to neighboring track writes
- Sector sparing
  - Remap bad sectors transparently to spare sectors on the same surface
- Slip sparing
  - Remap all sectors (when there is a bad sector) to preserve sequential behavior
- Track skewing
  - Sector numbers offset from one track to the next, to allow for disk head movement for sequential ops
- …

Summary

- I/O Devices Types:
  - Many different speeds (0.1 bytes/sec to GBytes/sec)
  - Different Access Patterns:
    - » Block Devices, Character Devices, Network Devices
  - Different Access Timing:
    - » Blocking, Non-blocking, Asynchronous
- I/O Controllers: Hardware that controls actual device
  - Processor Accesses through I/O instructions, load/store to special physical memory
  - Report their results through either interrupts or a status register that processor looks at occasionally (polling)
- Notification mechanisms
  - Interrupts
  - Polling: Report results through status register that processor looks at periodically
- Drivers interface to I/O devices
  - Provide clean Read/Write interface to OS above
  - Manipulate devices through PIO, DMA & interrupt handling
  - 2 types: block, character, and network