

Last lecture in OS :

Files and File Descriptors

Files are an abstraction, just like a process

process abstracts processors

files abstracts storage

I open/read/write/close files

OS: manage bit locations on hardware

lseek \rightarrow indicate offset in a file (DVD chapters)

Open file

open in read/write modes

$fd = \text{open}(\text{file}, \text{read})$

$fd < 0 ? \rightarrow$ error

fd is unique id of open operation

$\text{retval} = \text{close}(fd)$ close file descriptor

Read file

$nbytes = \text{read}(fd, buf, 1024)$ read 1024 bytes, put onto buf

$nbytes < 0 ? \rightarrow$ error

read more? do $\text{read}()$ more times
 \rightarrow it will change position of file pointer

Write file

$nbytes = \text{write}(fd, buf, 1024)$ write 1024 bytes from buf onto file

$nbytes < 0 ? \rightarrow$ error

downloading 1MB file w/ 1KB buffer? call $\text{write}()$ 1024 times

map through FD table, maintained per process

The first 3 file descriptors

Each process begins life with three open files associated with a terminal

0: standard input (default: keyboard)

1: standard output (default: screen)

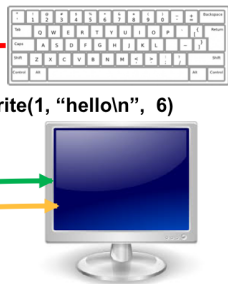
2: standard error (default: screen)

Open a new file

Starts from fd = 3

fd	File information
0	stdin
1	stdout
2	stderr
3	(unused)
...	

write(1, "hello\n", 6)



File Descriptors

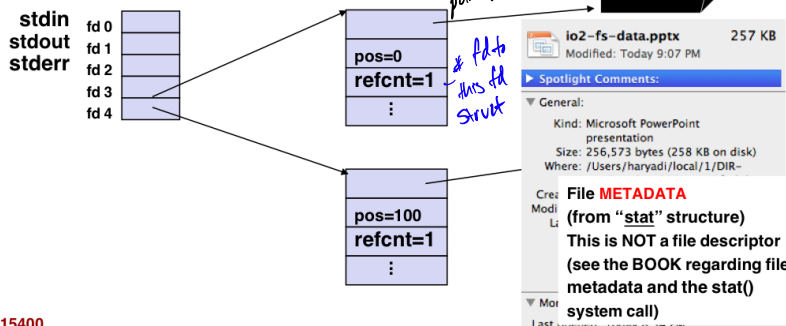
fd is just a number

to OS, it represents a pointer to file descriptor structure
gives file access, next read/write position, ...

FDs = represent open files

Descriptor table
(file descriptor numbers)

~~Open file table~~
File access info.
(File descriptor structures)



SC 15400

multiple fd's can point to same fd struct

→ can open same file multiple times → multiple file instances, point to same metadata

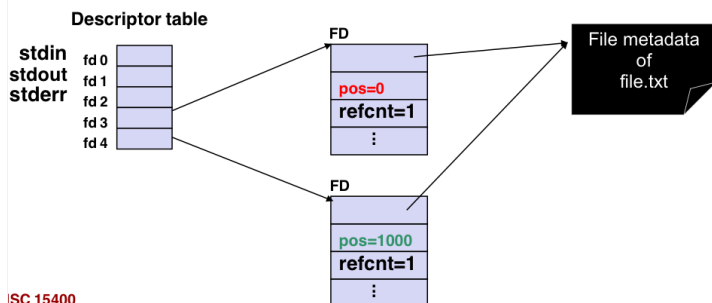
Two distinct FDs sharing the same disk file

E.g., Calling open twice with the same filename argument

fd3=open("file.txt"),

fd4=open("file.txt"),

read(fd4, buf, 1000)



SC 15400

Redirection

in shell: `ls > fo.txt` print `ls` into `fo.txt`

done using `dup2(fd_src, fd_dst)` change pointer of `fd`

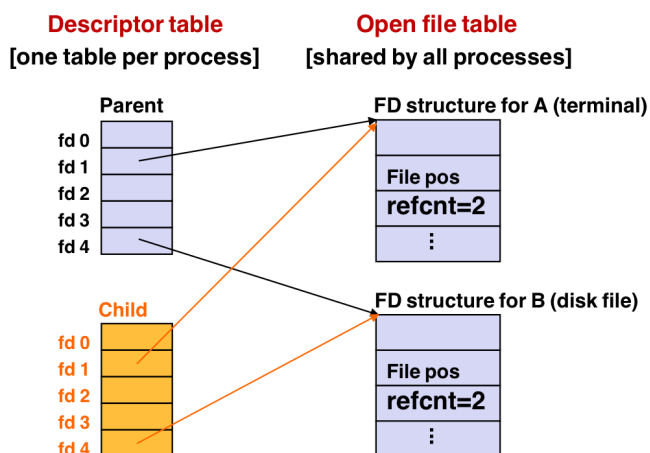
`read()` affects `fd struct`.

17:00-20:00 p2 → cool animation

child inherits parent's open files

After fork():

Child's table same as parent's, and +1 to each refcnt



21:30 animation

`O_APPEND` → start position @ end

Buffering

`read()` → read much more per sys call

↳ library call, not sys call
much more efficient

still need to specify num bytes

don't read from disk, read from memory
prepares its own buffer
uses mem copy

new sys call only when buffer needs to be refilled