Operating Systems: Filesystems

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## Outline

- 1. Filesystem Interface
- 2. Persistent Storage Devices: Hard disks
- 3. Filesystem Implementation
- 4. FAT Filesystem
- 5. FFS: Unix Fast Filesystem
- 6. NTFS: Microsoft Filesystem
- 7. Crash Consistency (OSTEP 42)
- 8. Log-structured Filesystems (OSTEP 43)
- 9. Persistent Storage Devices: Flash-based SSDs (OSTEP 44)

- Persistent structure of files
- Types of files:
  - user file: content is sequence of bytes
  - directory file: content is pointers to files
  - device, ...
- Structure organized as a tree or acylic graph
  - nodes: d-files, u-files
  - root directory: "/"
  - path to a file: "/a/b/..."
  - acyclic: more than one path to a u-file (but not directory)
- File metadata: type, owner, creation time, access, ...
- Users can create/delete files, modify content/metadata
- Examples: FAT, UFS, NTFS, ZFS, ..., PFAT, GOSFS, GSFS2

// residing in persistent storage

// u-file for short
// d-file for short

### Name

- last entry in a path to the file
- subject to size and char limits
- Type: directory or file or device or ...
- Size: subject to limit
- Directory may have a separate limit on number of entries
- Time of creation, modification, last access, ...
- Content type (if u-file): eg, text, binary, executable, ...
   pdf, jpeg, mpeg, ...
- Owner
- Access for owner, others, ...: eg, r, w, x, setuid, ...

fs interface

 ${\it /\!/} eg, \ ``b"$  in path `'/a/b"

## Format(dev)

create an empty filesystem on device *dev* (eg, disk, flash, ...)

### Mount(fstype, dev)

- attach (to computer) filesystem of type *fstype* on device *dev*
- returns a path to the filesystem (eg, mount point, volume, ...)
- after this, processes can operate on the filesystem

### Unmount(path)

- detach (from computer) filesystem at path // finish all io
- after this, the filesystem is inert in its device, unaccessible

- Create(path), CreateDir(path)
  - create a file/directory at given path
- Link(existingPath, newPath)
  create a (hard) link to an existing file (not directory)
- Delete(path)

// aka Unlink(path)

- delete the given path to the u-file at *path*
- delete u-file if no more paths to it
- DeleteDir(path)
  - delete the directory at *path*

// must be empty

- Change attributes (name, metadata) of file at *path* 
  - eg, stat, touch, chown/chgrp, chmod, rename/mv

fs interface

Open(path, access), OpenDir(path, access)

- open the file at path with given access (r, w, ...)
- returns a file descriptor
- after this, file can be operated on
- Close(fd), CloseDir(fd)
  - close the file associated with file descriptor fd
- Read(fd, file range, buffer), ReadDir(fd, dir range, buffer),
  - read the given range from open file *fd* into given buffer
    returns number of bytes/entries read
- Write(fd, file range, buffer)
  - write buffer contents into the given range of open file *fd*
  - returns number of bytes written

- Seek(fd, file location), SeekDir(fd, entry)
   move "r/w" position" to given location/entry
- MemMap(*fd*, *file range*, *mem range*)
  map the given range of open file *fd* to given range of memory
- MemUnmap(fd, file range, mem range)
  - unmap the given range of file *fd* from given range of memory
- Sync(fd)
  - complete all pending io for open file *fd*

- Shared file: file opened by several processes concurrently
- Consistency:
  - when does a read see the result of a previous write by another process
- Various types of consistency (from strong to weak)
  - when the read starts after the write returns
  - when the read starts after a post-write sync returns
  - when the read starts after a post-write close returns
- Single-processor system
  - all types of consistency easily achieved
- Multi-processor system
  - strong notions are expensive/slow to achieve

- Filesystem should be resilient to device failures
- Types of failures to be handled:
  - failures in persistent storage devices:
    - magnetic / mechanical / electronic parts wear out
  - Operating system may crash in the middle of a fs operation

fs interface

- Power loss in the middle of a fs operation
- "Small" failures should cause no loss of filesystem
- "Large" failures may cause loss of some files but no inconsistency (no undetected corrupted files)

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- Platter(s) fixed to rotating spindle
- Spindle speed
- Platter has two surfaces
- Surface has concentric tracks
- Track has sectors
  - more in outer than inner
- Sector: fixed capacity
- Movable arm with fixed rw heads, one per surface
- Buffer memory

Eg, laptop disk (2011)

- 1 or 2 platters
- 4200–15000 rpm, 15–4 ms/rotation
- diameter: 2.5 in
- track width: < 1 micron
- sector: 512 bytes
- buffer: 16 MB

## Disk IO

- IO is in blocks (sectors); slower, more bursty than memory
- Disk access time = seek + rotation + transfer
- Seek time: (moving rw head) + (electronic settling)
  - minimum: target is next track; settling only
  - maximum: target is at other end
- rotation delay: half-rotational delay on avg
- transfer time: platter  $\leftrightarrow$  buffer
- transfer time: buffer  $\leftrightarrow$  host memory

```
Eg, laptop disk (2011)
```

- min seek: 0.3–1.5 ms
- max seek: 10–20 ms
- rotation delay: 7.5–2 ms
- **p**latter  $\leftrightarrow$  buffer: 50 (inner) 100 (outer) MB/s
- buffer  $\leftrightarrow$  host memory: 100–300 MB/s

- FIFO: terrible: lots of head movement
- SSTF (shortest seek time first)
  - favors "middle" requests; can starve "edge" requests
- SCAN (elevator)
  - sweep from inner to outer, until no requests in this direction
  - sweep from outer to inner, until no requests in this direction
- CSCAN: like SCAN but in only one direction
  - fairer, less chance of sparsely-requested track
- R-SCAN / R-CSCAN
  - allow minor deviations in direction to exploit rotational delays

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- Define a mapping of filesystem files to device blocks
- Define an implementation of filesystem operations
  - performance: random and sequential data access
  - reliability: inspite of device failures
  - accomodate different devices (blocks, size, speed, geometry, ...)
- The slides sometimes use the following abbreviations:
  - **fs**: filesystem
  - fs-int: filesystem interface
  - fs-imp: filesystem implementation

- Fs implementation usually starts at the second block in the device [The first device block is usually reserved for the boot sector]
- Fs implementation organizes the device in fs blocks 0, 1, · · ·
- One fs block is one or more device blocks, or vice versa
  - henceforth, "block" without qualifier means "fs block"
- Fs implementation is a graph over blocks, rooted at a special block (the superblock)

[In contrast, fs interface is a graph over files]

- **Each** fs-int file x maps to a subgraph of the fs-imp graph
  - subgraph's blocks hold x's metadata and x's data
  - root block of the subgraph typically has pointers to subgraph's blocks
- List of free blocks reachable from superblock

## Overview of Fs Implementation



- Usually in the first few device blocks after the boot sector
- First fs block read by OS when mounting a filesystem
- Contains info sufficient to mount the filesystem
  - magic number, indicating filesystem type
  - fs blocksize (vs device blocksize)
  - size of disk (in fs blocks).
  - pointer (block #) to the root of "/" directory's subgraph
  - pointer to list of free blocks
  - (perhaps) pointer to array of roots of subgraphs

**...** 

# Subgraph for a fs-int file

- Unique low-level name
- User name(s)
- File metadata
  - size
  - owner, access, …
  - creation time, last modification time, ...

• • • •

- Pointers to fs blocks containing file's data
  - pointers organized in array, linked-list, ...
- For a u-file, the data is the file's data
- For a d-file, the data is a table of directory entries
  - table may be unordered, sorted, hashed, ..., depending on number and size of entries, desired performance, ...
  - directory entry points to the entry's subgraph // eg, inode

// typically a number ("inode number")
// multiple names/paths due to links

#### fs implementation

- Want large numbers of consecutive reads or writes
- So put related info in nearby blocks / cylinders
- Large buffers (to minimize read misses)
- Batched writes: large queue of writes

### A device block can degrade over time.

- positions in the block may not retain their values
- need to detect the degradation and avoid that block

## Redundancy within a disk

- error-detection/correction code (EDC/ECC) in each disk block
- map each fs block to multiple disk blocks
- dynamically remap within a disk to bypass failing areas
- Redundancy across disks

∥ eg, RAID

- map each fs block to blocks in different disks
- EDC/ECC for a fs block across disks

• • • •

A fs operation is atomically executed if either all of it or none of it is applied to the fs

Goal: every fs operation is atomic inspite of failures (OS, power, etc) during operation

Assumption about operations (reads, writes) on device blocks

- if there is a failure during a block write, the write is completed or the block is unchanged
- if a sequence of operations is submitted, when the disk indicates completion, all the operations have been done in some order

- Suppose user modifies a file *f*
- Identify a subgraph, say X, of the fs-imp graph to be modified
- Write the new value of X in fresh blocks, say Y
- Attach Y to the fs-imp graph in place of X
  - typically involves modifying fewer blocks, so low prob of failure
  - ideal: involves modifying one device block
- Garbage collect the blocks of X

- Suppose user issues a sequence of disk operations
- Maintain a log (aka journal) of requested operations
  - add records (one for each operation) to log
  - add "commit" record after last operation
- Later, commit the log to disk
  - write the operations in the log to disk
  - when those writes are completed, erase the log
- Upon recovery from crash, (re)do all operations in the log
  - writes may be repeated, but this is ok // writes are idempotent

- Virtual filesystem: optional
  - memory-only framework on which to mount real filesystems
- Mounted Filesystem(s)
  - real filesystems, perhaps of different types
- Block cache
  - cache filesystem blocks: performance, sharing, ...
- Block device
  - wrapper for the various block devices with filesystems
- Device drivers for the various block devices

## GeekOS: Hierarchy in Filesystem



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# FAT32 Overview - 1

- FAT: MS-DOS filesystem
  - simple, but no good for scalability, hard links, reliability, ...
  - currently used only on simple storage devices: flash, ...
- Disk divided into following regions
  - Boot sector: device block 0
    - BIOS parameter block
    - OS boot loader code
  - Filesystem info sector: device block 1
    - signatures, fs type, pointers to other sections
    - fs blocksize, # free fs blocks, # last allocated fs block
    - • •
  - FAT: fs blocks 0 and 1; corresponds to the superblock
  - Data region: rest of the disk, organized as an array of fs blocks
     holds the data of the fs-int files

- Each block in the data region is either free or bad or holds data (of a file or directory)
- FAT: array with an entry for each block in data region
   entries j<sub>0</sub>, j<sub>1</sub>, ··· form a chain iff blocks j<sub>0</sub>, j<sub>1</sub>, ··· hold successive data of a file
- Entry n contains
  - constant, say FREE, if block n is free
  - constant, say BAD, if block *n* is bad (ie, unusable)
  - 32-bit number, say x, if block n holds data of a file and block x holds the succeeding data of the file
  - constant, say END, if block n holds the last data chunk

Root directory table: typically at start of data region (block 2)

### Directory entry: 32 bytes

- ∎ name (8)
- extension (3)
- attributes (1)
  - read-only, hidden, system, volume label, subdirectory, archive, device
- reserved (10)
- last modification time (2)
- last modification date (2)
- fs block # of starting fs block of the entry's data
- size of entry's data (4)

Hard links??

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- Boot blocks
- Superblock
  - magic number
  - filesystem geometry (eg, locations of groups)
  - filesystem statistics/tuning params
- Groups, each consisting of
  - backup copy of superblock
  - header with statistics
  - array of inodes
    - holds metadata and data pointers of fs-int files
    - # inodes fixed at format time
  - array of data blocks
  - free-inodes bitmap, free-datablocks bitmap
  - **...**

// few blocks at start
// after boot blocks

// cylinder groups

Inodes are numbered sequentially starting at 0

- inodes 0 and 1 are reserved
- inode 2 is the root directory's inode
- An inode is either free or not
- Non-free inode holds metadata and data pointers of a file
  - owner id
  - type (directory, file, device, ...)
  - access modes
  - reference count
  - size and # blocks of data
  - 15 pointers to data blocks
    - 12 direct
    - 1 single-indirect, 1 double-indirect, 1 triple-indirect

// # of hard links



- The data blocks of a directory hold directory entries
- A directory entry is not split across data blocks
- Directory entry has a pointer to inode
- Directory entry for a file
  - # of the inode of the file
  - size of entry
  - length of file name (up to 255 bytes)
  - entry name

Multiple directory entries can point to the same inode
- Every user account has a user id (uid)
- Root user (aka superuser, admin) has uid of 0
- Processes and filesystem entries have associated uids
  - indicates owners
  - determines access processes have to filesystem entries
  - determines which processes can be signalled by a process

#### Every process has two associated uids

- effective user id (euid)
  - uid of user on whose behalf it is currently executing
  - determines its access to filesystem entries
- real uid (ruid)
  - uid of the process's owner
  - determines which processes it can signal:
    - x can signal y only if x is superuser or x.ruid = y.ruid

- Process is created: ruid/euid  $\leftarrow$  creating process's euid
- $\blacksquare$  Process with euid 0 executes SetUid(z): ruid/euid  $\leftarrow$  z
  - no effect if process has non-zero euid
- Example SetUid usage
  - login process has euid 0 (to access auth info files)
  - upon successful login, it starts a shell process (with euid 0)
  - shell executes SetUid(authenticated user's uid)
- When a process executes a file f with "setuid bit" set: its euid is set to f's owner's uid while it is executing f.
- Upon bootup, the first process ("init") runs with uid of 0
  - it spawns all other processes directly or indirectly

# Directory entry's uids and permissions

- Every directory entry has three classes of users:
  - owner (aka "user")
  - group (owner need not be in this group)
  - others (users other than owner or group)
- $\blacksquare$  Each class's access is defined by three bits: r, w, x
- For a file:
  - r: read the file
  - w: modify the file
  - x: execute the file
- For a directory:
  - r: read the names (but not attributes) of entries in the directory
  - w: modify entries in the directory (create, delete, rename)
  - x: access an entry's contents and metainfo
- When a directory entry is created: attributes are set according to the creating process's attributes (euid, umask, etc)

- Each directory entry also has a "setuid" bit.
- If an executable file has setuid set and a process (with execute access) executes it, the process's euid changes to the file's owner's uid while executing the file.
- Typically, the executable file's owner is root, allowing a normal user to get root privileges while executing the file
- This is a high-level analog of system calls

- Each directory entry also has a sticky bit.
- Executable file with sticky bit set: hint to the OS to retain the text segment in swap space after the process executes
- An entry x in a directory with sticky bit set:
  - a user with wx access to the directory can rename/delete an entry x in the directory only if it is x's owner (or superuser)
  - Usually set on /tmp directory.

- Unix has the notion of groups of users
- A group is identified by a group id, abbreviated gid
- A gid defines a set of uids
- A user account can be in different groups, i.e., have multiple gids
- Process has effective gid (egid) and real gid (rgid)
  - play a similar role as euid and ruid
- A directory entry has a setgid bit
  - plays a similar role to setuid for executables
  - plays an entirely different role for directories

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# NTFS Index Structure

- Master File Table (MFT)
  - corresponds to FFS inode array
  - holds an array of 1KB MFT records
- MFT Record: sequence of variable-size attribute records
- **Std** info attribute: owner id, creation/mod/... times, security, ...
- File name attribute: file name and number
- Data attribute record
  - data itself (if small enough), or
  - list of data "extents" (if not small enough)

// resident
// non-resident

#### Attribute list

- pointers to attributes in this or other MFT records
- pointers to attribute extents
- needed if attributes do not fit in one MFT record
  - eg, highly-fragmented and/or highly-linked

### Example: Files with single MFT record

Master File Table (MFT)



NTFS



#### crash consistency

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- Goal: to bring up a crashed fs in a consistent recent state
- Filesystem checker (fsck)
  - no extra work done during normal operation
  - recovery: examine fs metadata (bitmaps, inodes) to detect inconsistencies
  - too slow to handle disks of current size
- Journaling: Data or Metadata
  - do extra work during normal operation
  - recovery: check only the modified part

Fs: 8-bit inode bitmap, 8-bit data bitmap, 8 inodes, 8 data blocks



Append of a single datablock to the existing file

- requires 3 writes: data bitmap block, inode block, data block
- write first to memory cache, later to disk



#### Disk

- writes blocks in arbitrary order
- ensures a block write is either all or nothing
- Possible crash scenarios
  - 1 block written
    - Dbor // ok
    - I[v2] or // inconsistency with data bitmap
    - B[v2] // space leak
  - 2 blocks written
    - [I[v2], B[v2]] or // bad. fs has garbage
    - [I[v2], Db] or // inconsistency with data bitmap
    - [B[v2], Db] // inconsistency with data bitmap

Examines and, if needed, modifies to achieve consistency

- Superblock // compare against duplicate superblocks
- Inodes and indirect blocks to produce a correct version of bitmaps
- Inode state
- Inode links
- Duplicates
- Directory checks

 Before overwriting disk structures in place, write a log in a specified place on disk

Linux ext3 filesystem with a journal:

Super .	Journal	Group 0	Group 1		Group N	
---------	---------	---------	---------	--	---------	--

- Crash during writing log:
  - at recovery: detect incomplete log, discard update
- Crash after writing log but before updating disk structure:
   at recovery: replay log // (re)update disk structures

#### Journal write



Journal commit // start after journal write completes

Journal	TxB id=1	I[v2]	B[v2]	Db	TxE id=1 ►	
---------	-------------	-------	-------	----	---------------	--

Checkpoint: write log metadata & data to final on-disk locations // start after journal commit completes

- For better performance: batch log updates
- To keep the log bounded: circular log
  - journal superblock: stores start and end of log

							+
Journal	Journal Super	Tx1	Tx2	Tx3	Tx4	Tx5	

- Data write: to final on-disk locations
- Journal metadata write: write metadata into log // after above completes
- Journal commit

// after above completes



- Checkpoint metadata: write metadata to final locations // after above completes
- Free: later, mark transaction free in journal superblock

Tricky: metadata journaling and block reuse crash consistency

User adds an entry to directory foo (datablock 1000)



Note: directory data is treated as metadata

- User deletes directory foo and its contents
- User creates new file foobar which ends up using block 1000



- Crash occurs after log is complete
  - recovery action overwrites foobar data with foo data

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### Motivation

- Memory size is growing rapidly
  - so fs performance determined by writes
- Disk: random io is much slower than sequential io
  - seek and rotational delays decreasing slowly
  - data bandwidth increasing rapidly
- Existing filesystems involve lots of random writes
  - create new 1-block file:
    - new inode, new datablock
    - bitmaps
    - parent inode, parent datablock(s)
- Existing filesystems are not RAID-aware
  - small-write problem

### Basic idea

- Make the filesystem a log
- Do all writes (data + metadata) to a (large) in-memory segment
  - Eg: [4 block writes to file j], [1 block write to file k]



- When segment is full, write it to disk sequentially (not in-place)
- But now the on-disk inodes are not in fixed locations
  - need a dynamic map of on-disk locations of current inodes
- Also need to free segment-size areas on disk
  - garbage collect old inodes and datablocks
  - coalesce small holes to segment-sized hole

- Inode map (imap): inode  $\# \longrightarrow$  disk location of "current" inode
- Imap on disk (for crash recovery) and in memory (for speed)
- $\blacksquare$  On-disk imap in fixed place & frequently updated  $\Rightarrow$  random io
- Instead on-disk imap is spread over log
  - upon an inode write, also write the relevant chunk of imap
  - checkpoint region (CR) gives locations of current imap chunks
  - CR at a fixed location in disk



#### Create file foo in a directory dir



Example: given file k with 1 datablock, update the datablock



Example: given file k with 1 datablock, append a new datablock



# Garbage collection

#### LFS cleaner works segment by segment

- read in M old segments
- determine the live blocks in those segments
- write them out (compactly) into N new segments (N < M)</li>

#### Determining block liveness

- every segment X has a segment summary (SS) block
- for each datablock D in X: disk location, inode number, offset



D is garbage if
 D.location in SS ≠ D.offset location in current inode

#### On-disk log (in successive disk blocks)



- Crash can occur while writing on-disk log or updating CR
- LFS updates the CR every 30 sec
- To ensure atomic update of CR
  - maintain two on-disk CRs and update them alternately
  - CR update
    - write timestamp in CR header, write CR
    - then write same timestamp in CR trailer
- Crash recovery:
  - choose the latest CR with consistent timestamps
  - from this CR, construct an in-memory imap
  - start logging at the CR's log-end position.

But loses all of the uncheckpointed log (30 sec!)

- Store some additional info in normal operation
  - in segment summary (SS): location of every inode in the segment
  - each segment has matching timestamps at start and end
- Upon crash, recover to the last checkpoint (as before)
- Then roll forward on the uncheckpointed part of the log
   while the next segment has matching timestamps: update the CR with the segment's metadata

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# Flash Devices

- RAM with a floating insulated gate
- No moving parts
  - more robust than disk to impacts
  - consumes less energy
  - uniform access time
     // good for random access
- Wears out with repeated usage? Lose charge when unused?

### Read/write operations

- done in blocks (12KB to 128KB)
- tens of microseconds

// if erased area available for writes

- Write requires erased area
- Erase operation
  - erasure block (few MB)
  - tens of milliseconds
  - so maintain a large erased area

# Flash chip

Consists of blocks divided into pages

- blocks are large: 128 KB, 256 KB, …
- pages are reasonable: 4 KB, ...

Page is invalid (i), erased (E) or valid (V)

- any page can be read
- an erased page can be written
- only blocks can be erased, not individual pages
- No moving parts: reliable
- Block wears out after repeated erase-write cycles

- Goal: provide an array of read-write pages
- Achieved via a flash translation layer (FTL)



Figure 44.3: A Flash-based SSD: Logical Diagram

#### Log-structured FTL – 1

Eg: write blocks 100, 101, 2000, 2001 with content a1, a2, b1, b2



# Log-structured FTL – 2

#### Garbage collection

- suppose user overwrites user blocks in pages  $x_0, x_1, \cdots$
- new content goes into new (erased) pages  $y_0, y_1, \cdots$
- map is updated
- old pages are garbage collected
  - live content in old blocks are moved to new blocks
  - block of old pages is erased

#### Hybrid mapping

- page map only would become too large
- also use block map
  - treat user block n as  $[n_1, n_2]$ , where  $n_1$  maps to a flash block
  - user blocks  $[n_1, 0], [n_1, 1], \cdots$  in pages 0, 1,  $\cdots$  of a block
- Map stored in flash
  - at unmount for persistence
  - periodically for crash recovery

#### // as in log-structured filesystems

Hybrid mapping example - 1

Suppose blocks 1000-1003 are stored in pages 8-11
 Log Table:
 Data Table: 250 → 8

Block:		(	)			-	1			2	2		
Page:	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	Flash
Content:									а	b	С	d	Chip
State:	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	V	V	V	V	

Suppose user overwrites these blocks with new content

Log Table:	10000	1001 🗕 1	1002-2	10033	
Data Table:	250 - 8				Memory

Block:		(	)			-	1			2	2		
Page:	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	Flash
Content:	a'	b'	C'	ď					а	b	С	d	Chip
State:	۷	V	V	۷	i	i	i	i	V	۷	۷	۷	

Memory

#### Garbage collection then yields

Log Table:

Data Table: 250 → 0

Memory

Block:		(	)			-	1			2	2		
Page:	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	Flash
Content:	a'	b'	C'	ď									Chip
State:	V	V	V	V	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	i	

### Performance

	Ran	dom	Sequ	ential		
	Reads	Writes	Reads	Writes		
Device	(MB/s)	(MB/s)	(MB/s)	(MB/s)		
Samsung 840 Pro SSD	103	287	421	384		
Seagate 600 SSD	84	252	424	374		
Intel SSD 335 SSD	39	222	344	354		
Seagate Savvio 15K.3 HDD	2	2	223	223		

Figure 44.4: SSDs And Hard Drives: Performance Comparison

Cost: HDDs much cheaper than SSDs (eg, 10 times less)