

# File systems

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KTH

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A file system is the user space implementation of *persistent storage*.

# The bigger picture

A file system is the user space implementation of *persistent storage*.

- a *file* is persistent i.e. it survives the termination of a process
- a *file* can be access by several processes i.e. a shared resource
- a *file* can be located given a *path* name

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# Implementation

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Name service



File service

/

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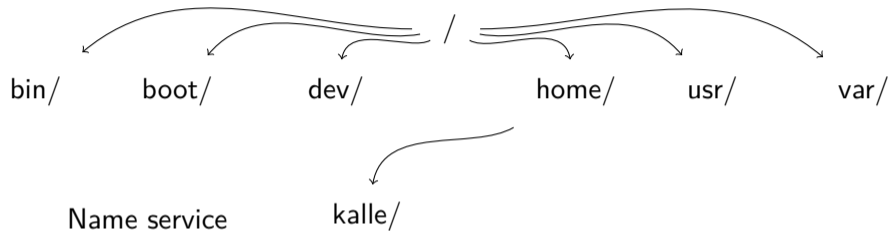


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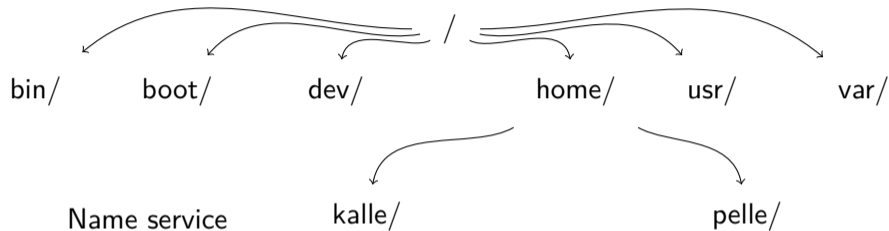
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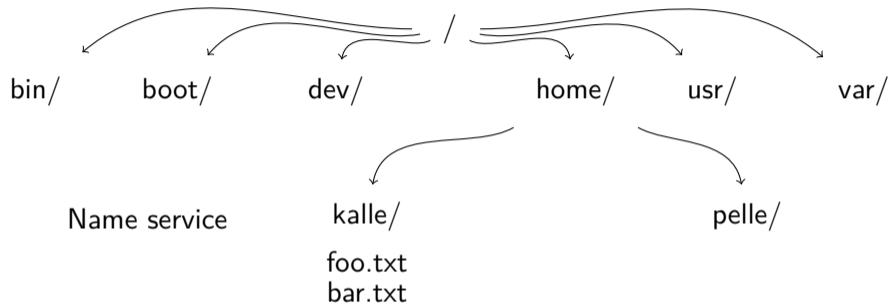
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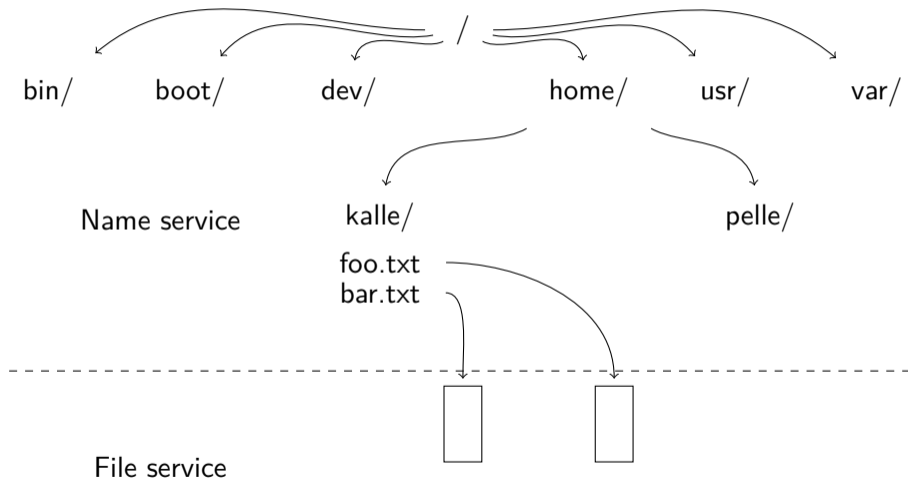
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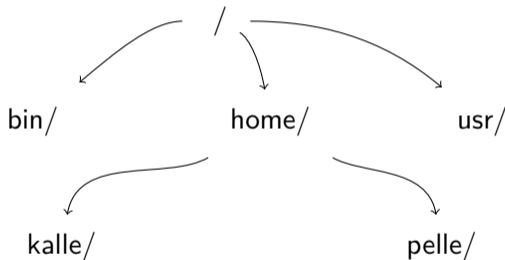
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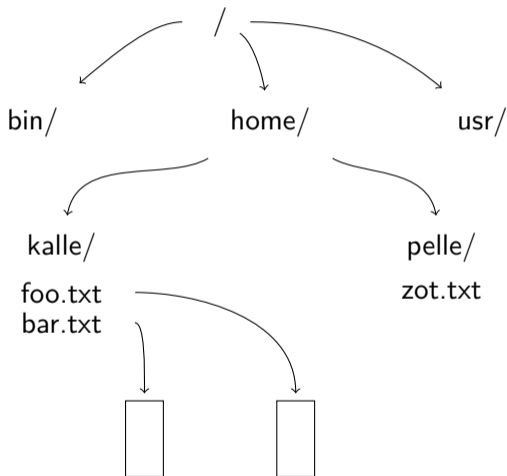
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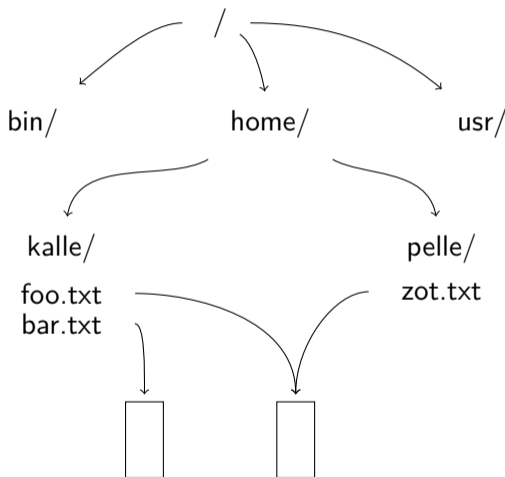
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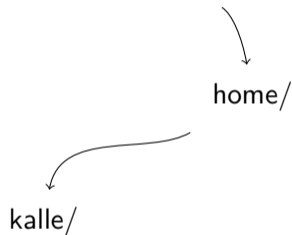
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- A file can be linked to from many directories.



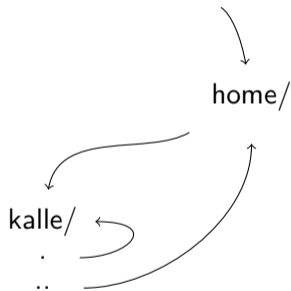
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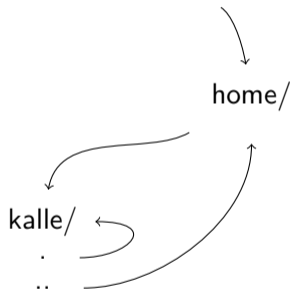
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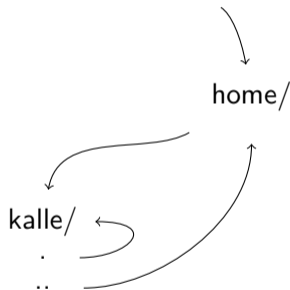
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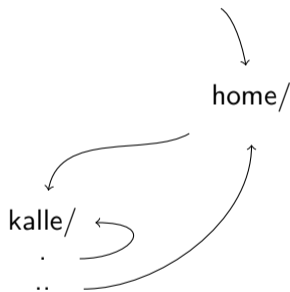
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- Why?



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drwxrwxr-x 2 johanmon johanmon 4096 nov 14 16:43 bar
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total 0
lrwxrwxrwx 1 johanmon johanmon 6 nov 14 16:41 gurka -> ../bar
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You can not choose descriptor, the operating system will choose the lowest available.

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processes



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file descriptor  
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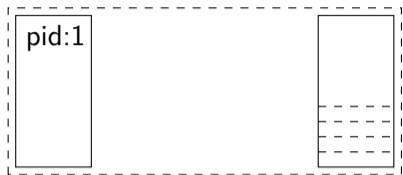
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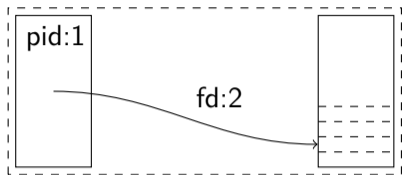
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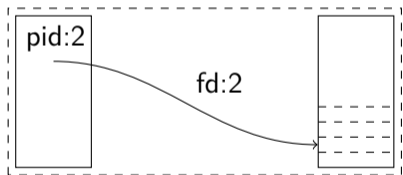
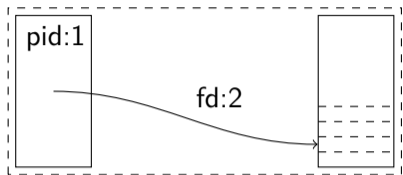
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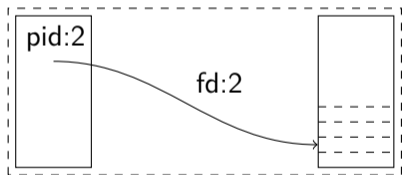
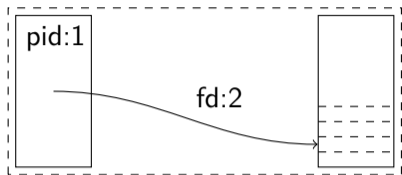
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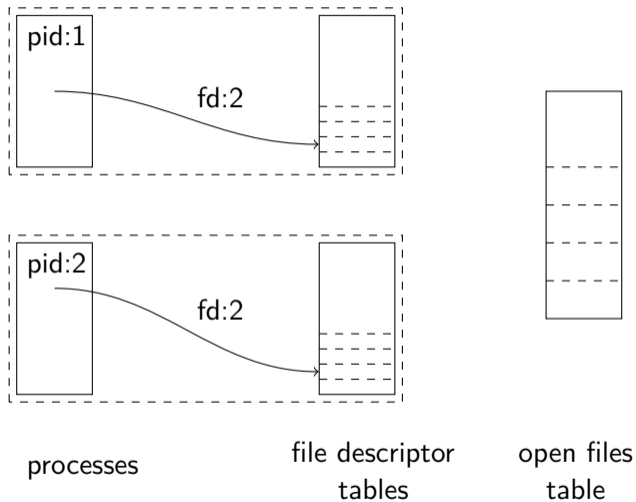


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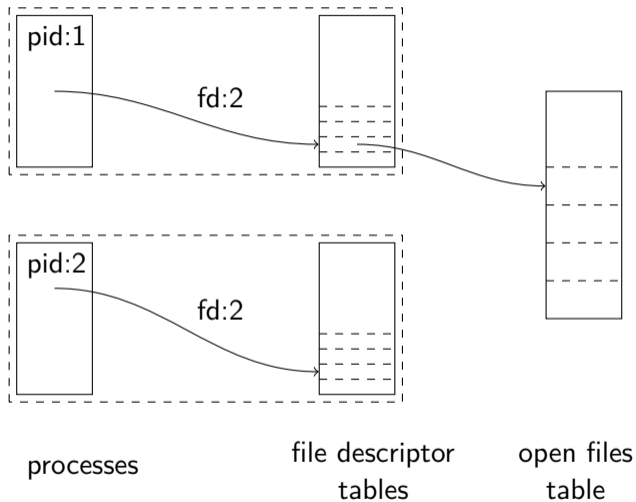
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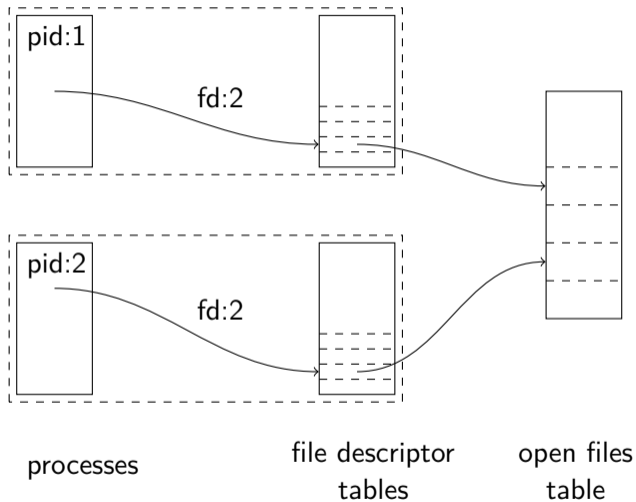




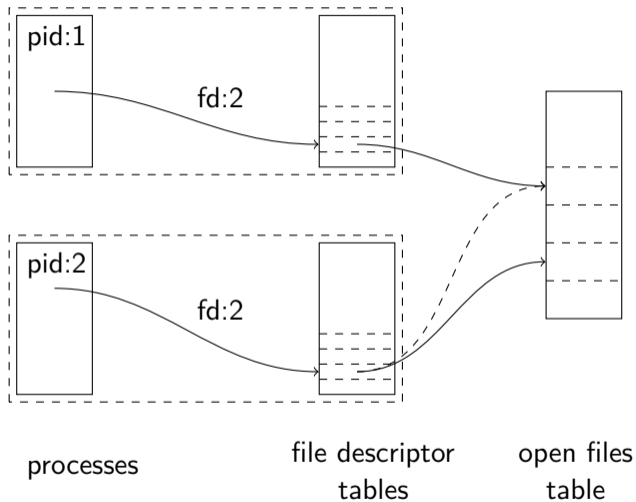
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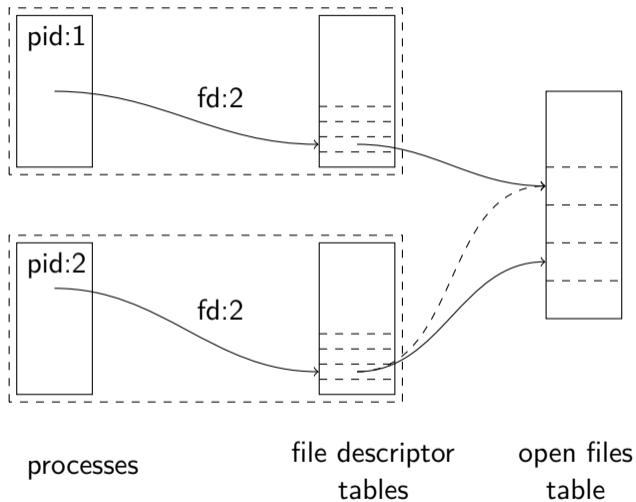
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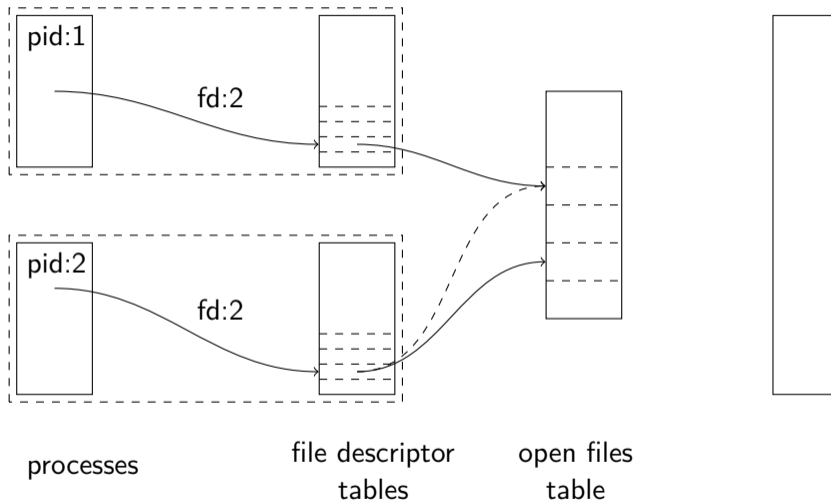
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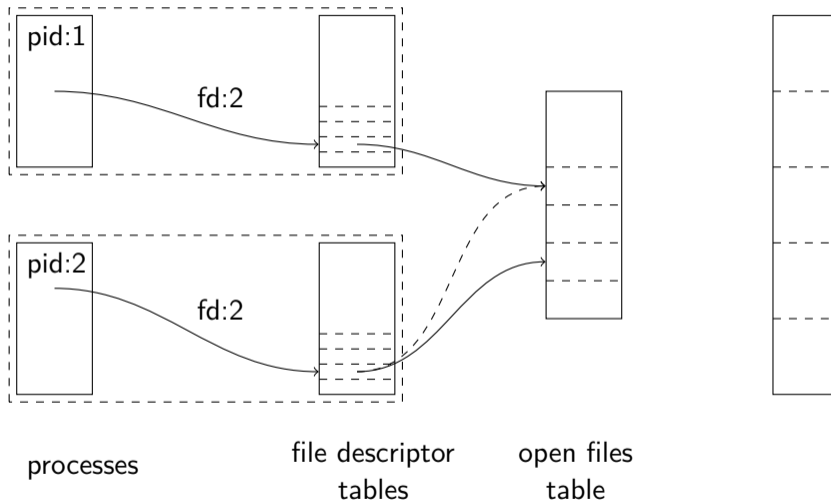
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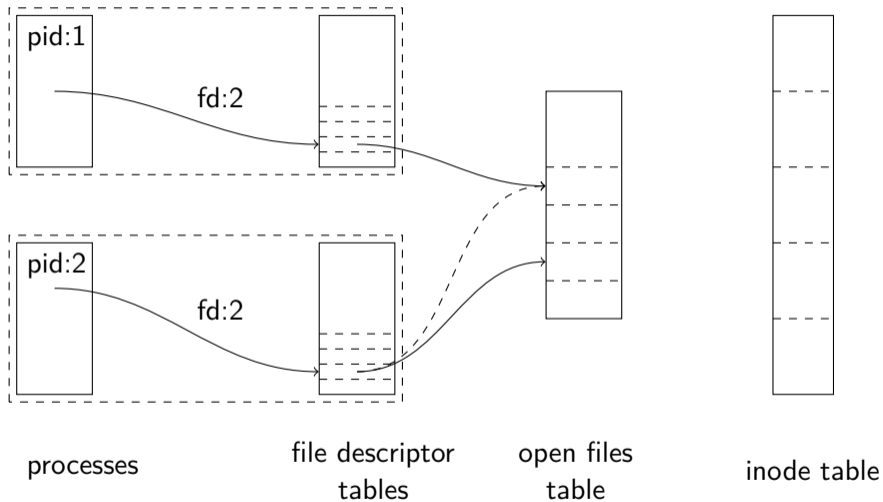
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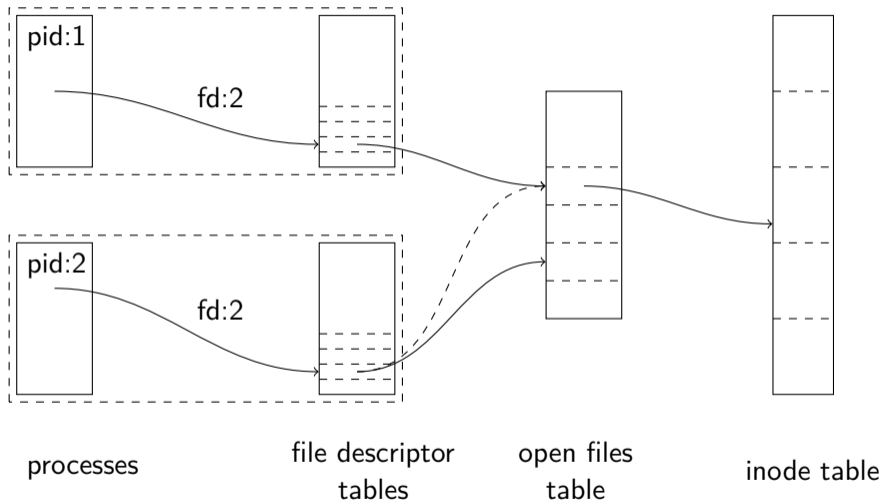
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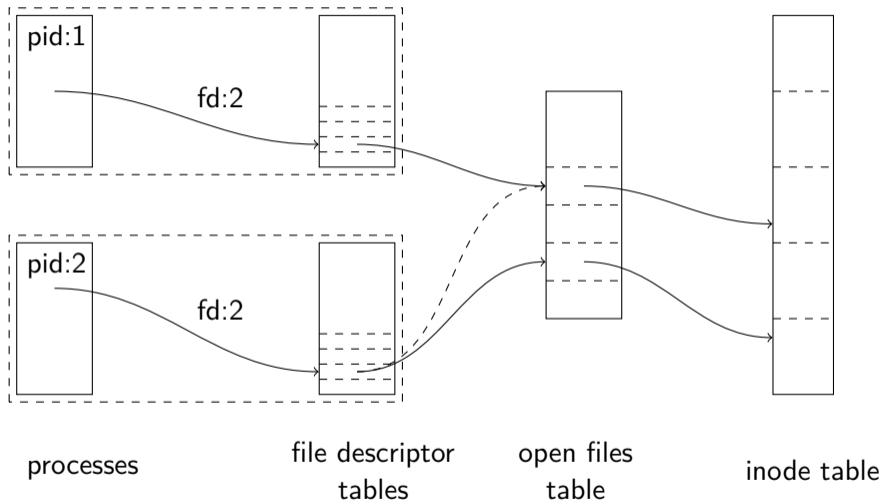


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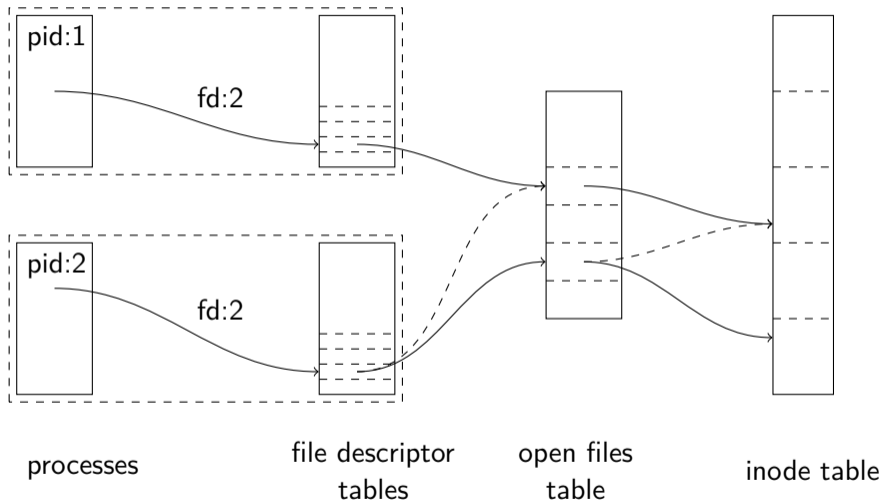




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*Note - a forked process can share file table entry with mother.*

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*lseek() will only modify the file table entry i.e. it will not read anything from disk.*

# The inode

- mode: access rights
- number of links: when zero the file is deleted
- user id: the owner of the file
- group id: the associated group
- size: file size in bytes
- blocks: how many data blocks have been allocated
- identifiers: block identifiers (more on this later)
- generation: incremented when inode is reused
- access time: last time read
- modify time: last time modified
- change time: the time the inode was changed

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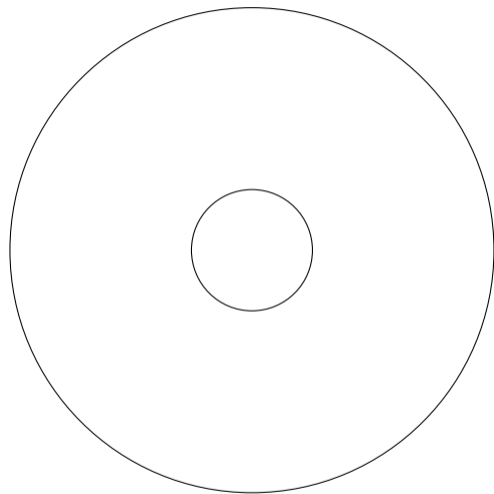
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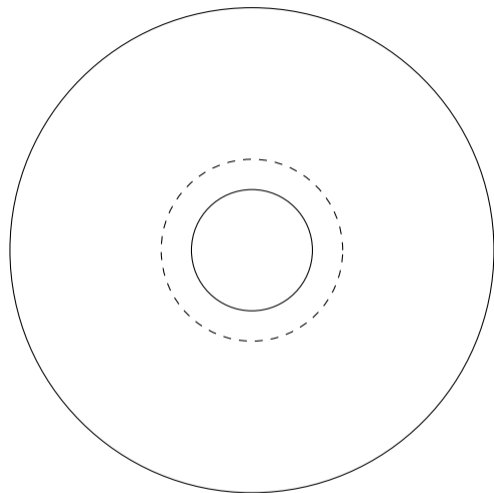
An operating system can *mount* different file systems, all accessible from the same directory structure.

Do `mount`, to see which file systems you have mounted.

# Anatomy of a HDD



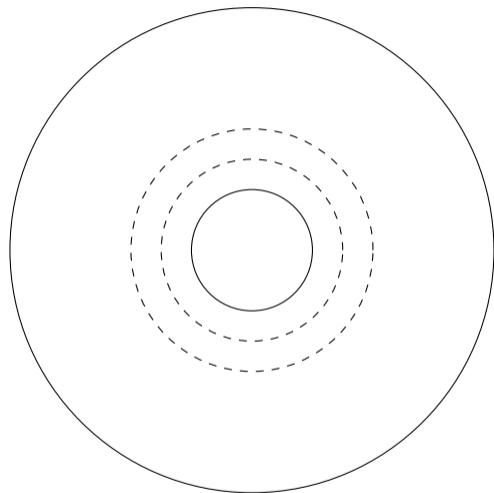
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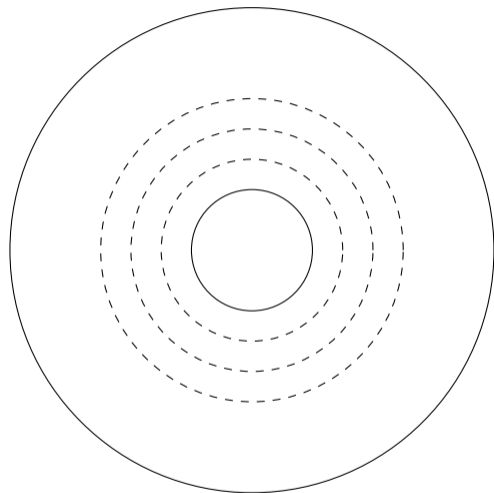


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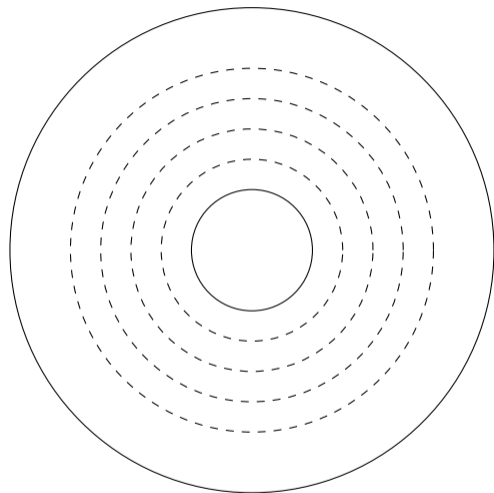
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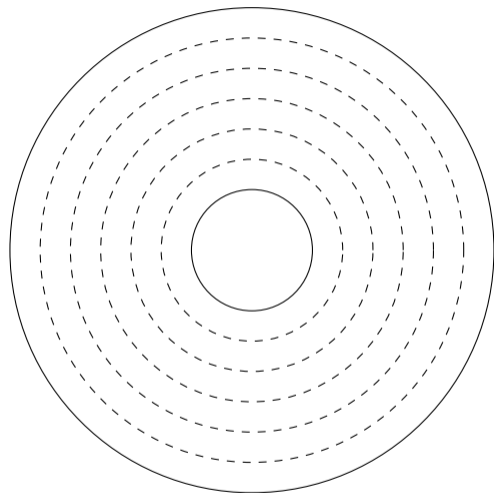
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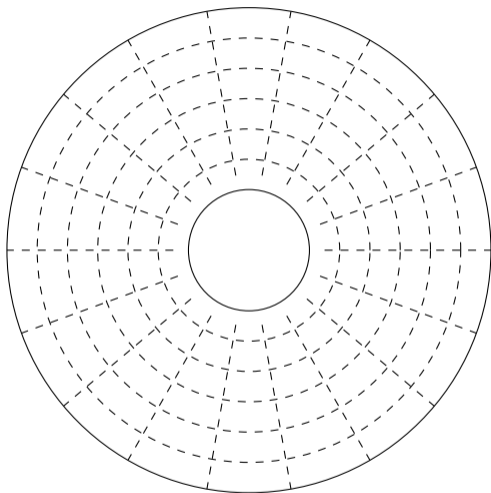
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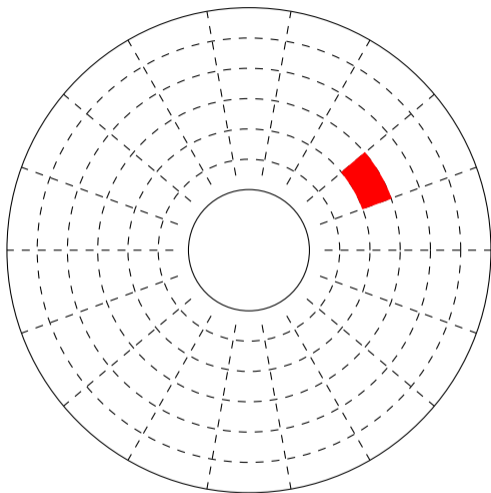
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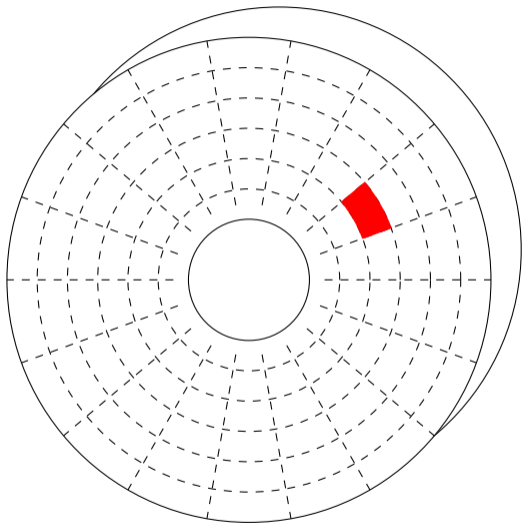
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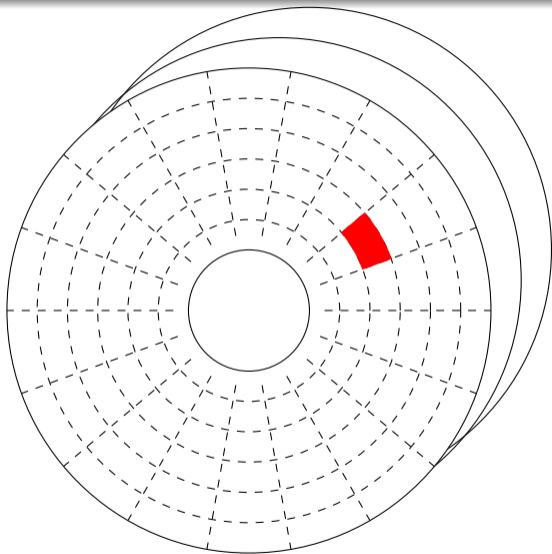
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# The Very Simple File System



0



8



16



24



32



40



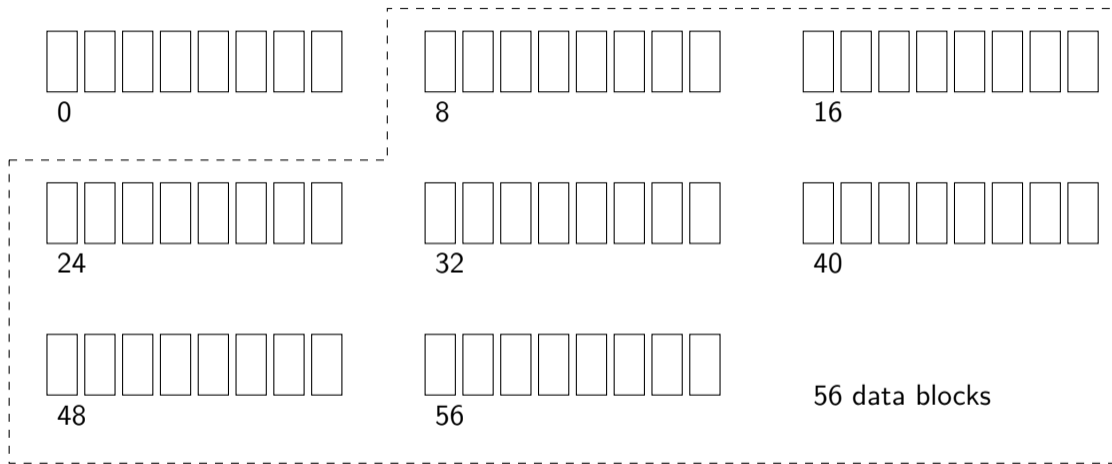
48



56

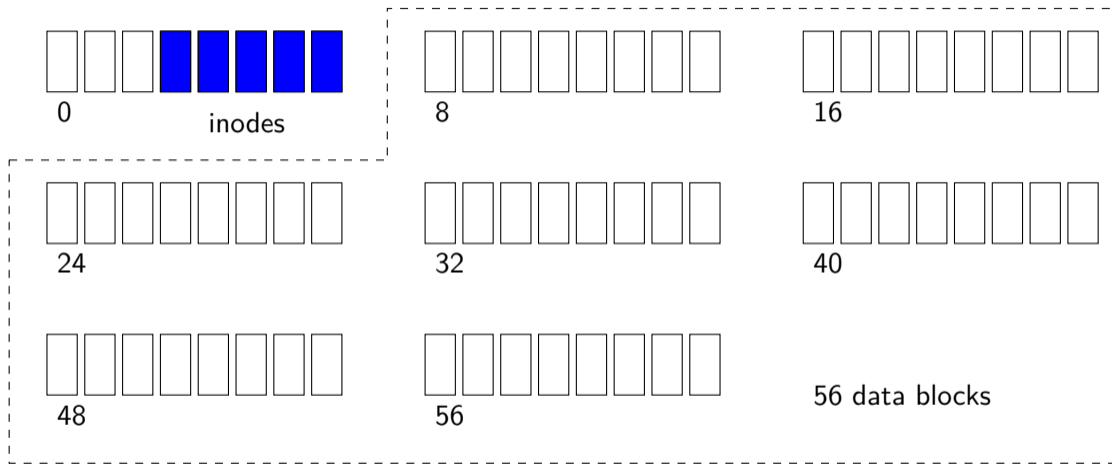
*Each block is 4Kbytes, an inode 256 bytes.*

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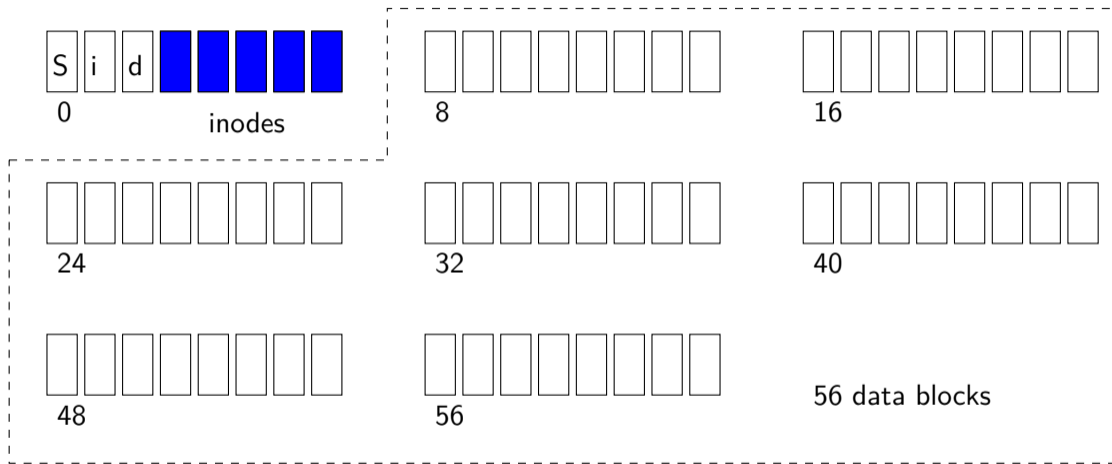
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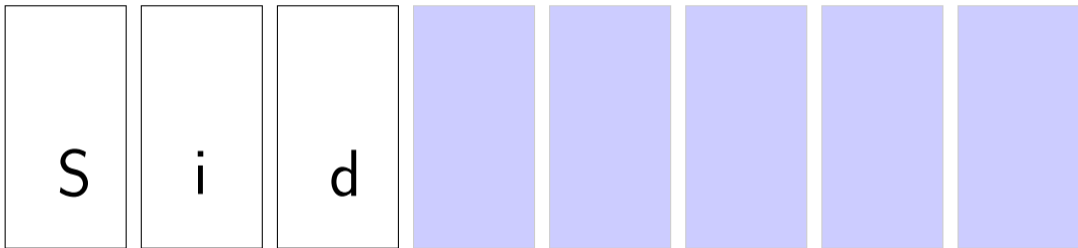
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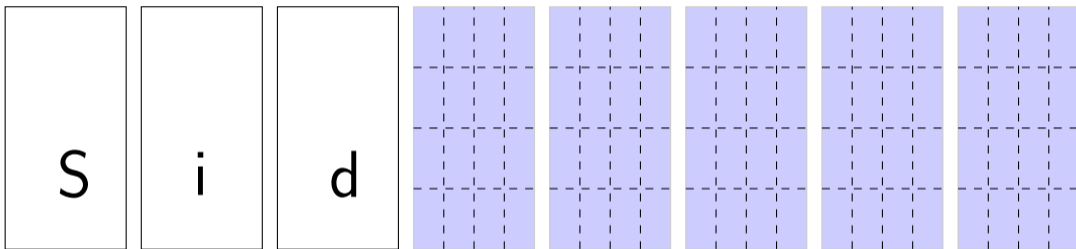


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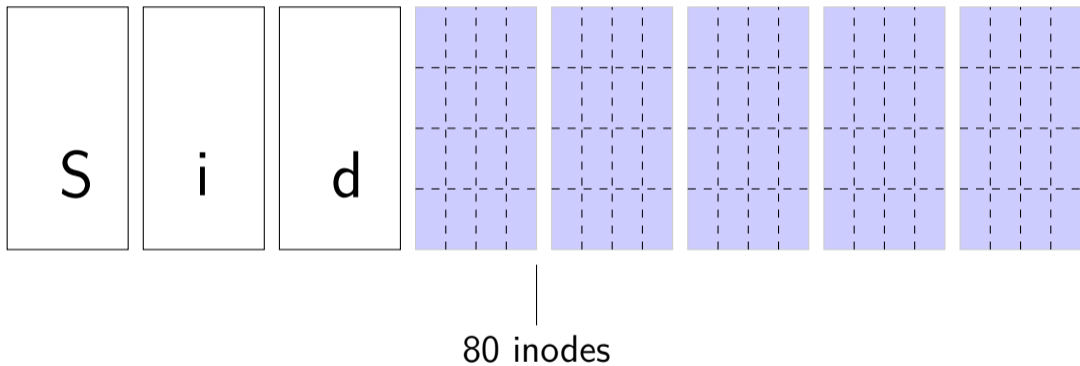
# The super block, bitmaps and inodes



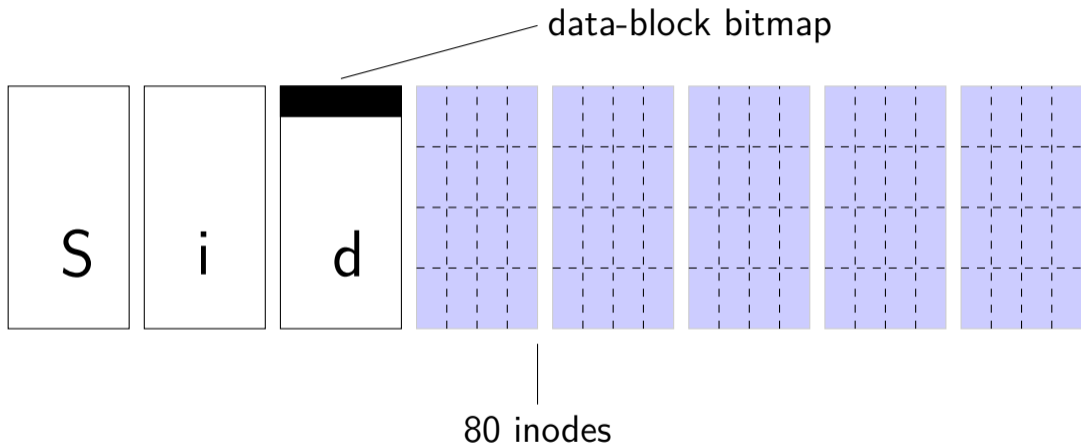
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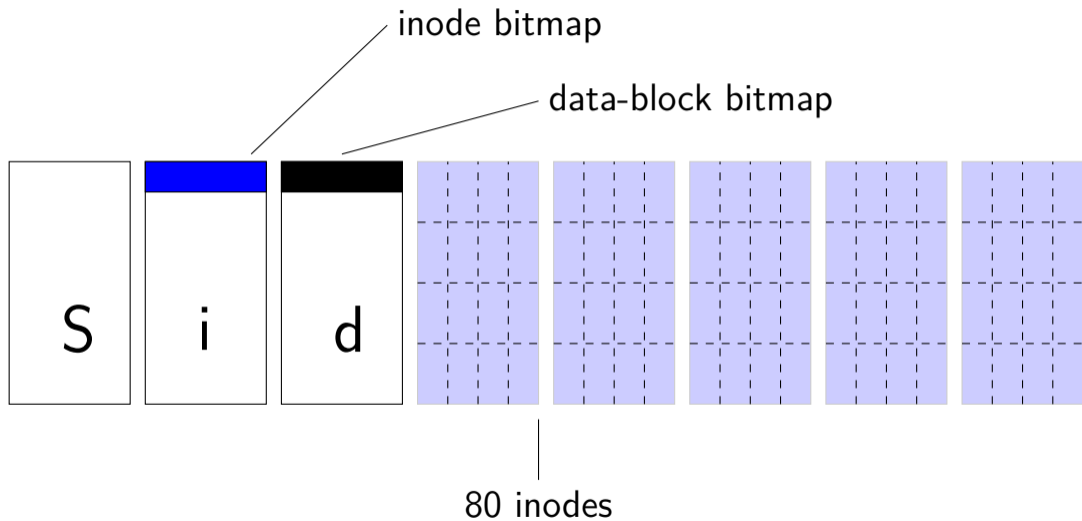


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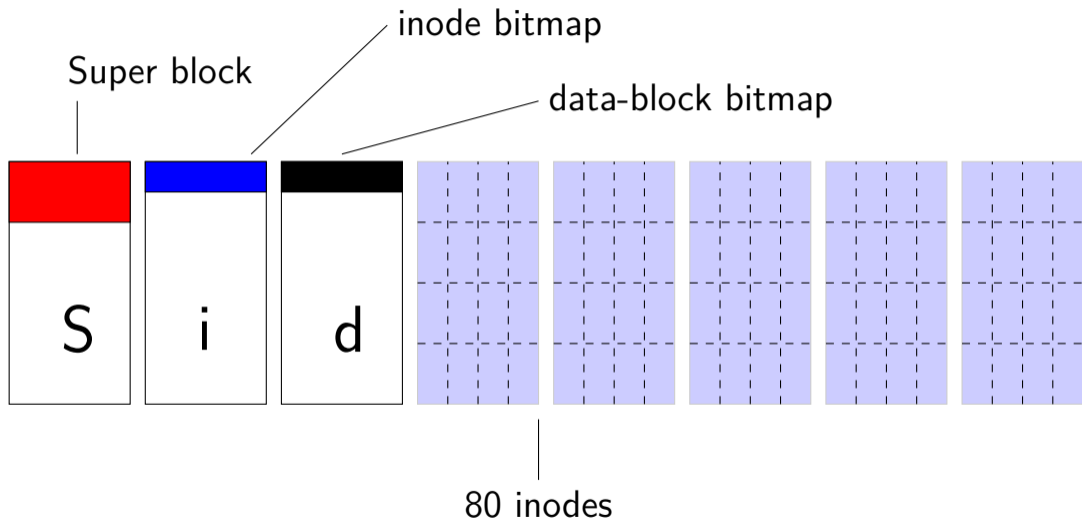




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## The super block

- describes the file system
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## The bitmaps

- which inode blocks are available
- which data blocks are available

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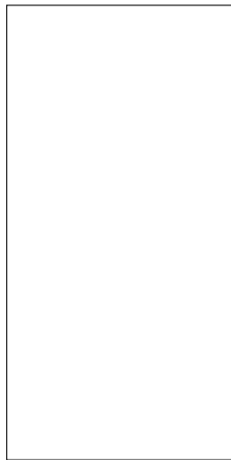
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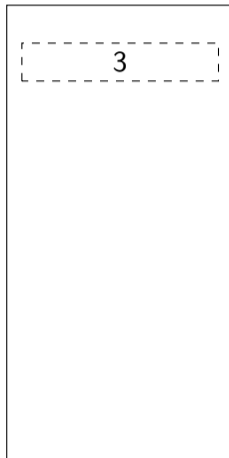
## The inodes

- all meta-data of the file
- which data blocks are used



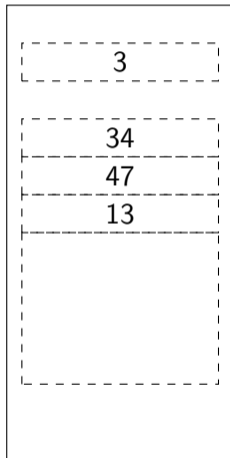
# the inode revisited

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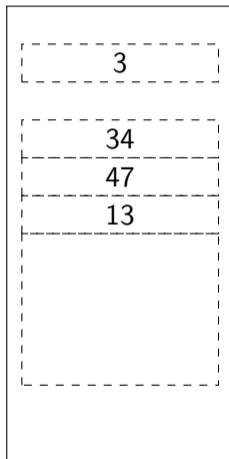
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## the inode revisited

- blocks: how many data blocks have been allocated
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*If the inode has room for 15 block identifiers ..... what is the maximum file size?*

- If the first fourteen entries are block identifiers,

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*Why not have a balanced tree?*

where are the directories?

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A directory is stored as a file using an inode and (almost always) one data block.

## where are the directories?

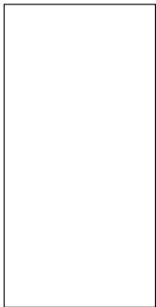
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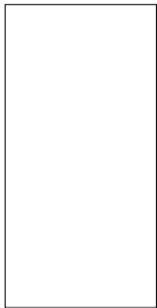
The data block contains a mapping from names of files and directories to inode numbers.

# a directory



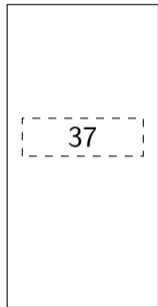
.

inode 2



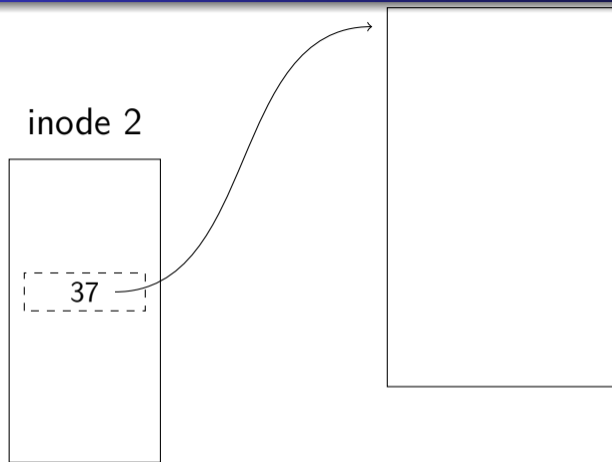
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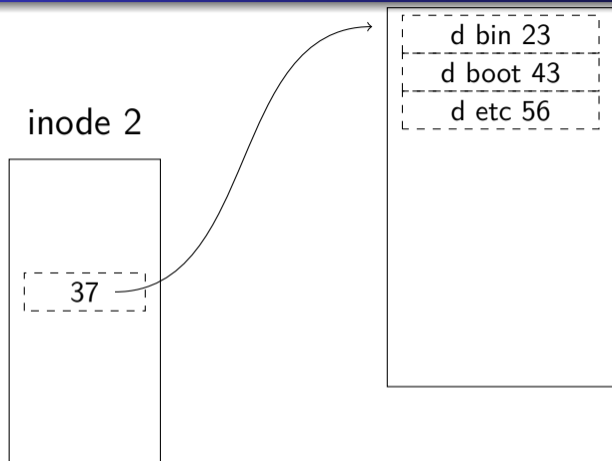


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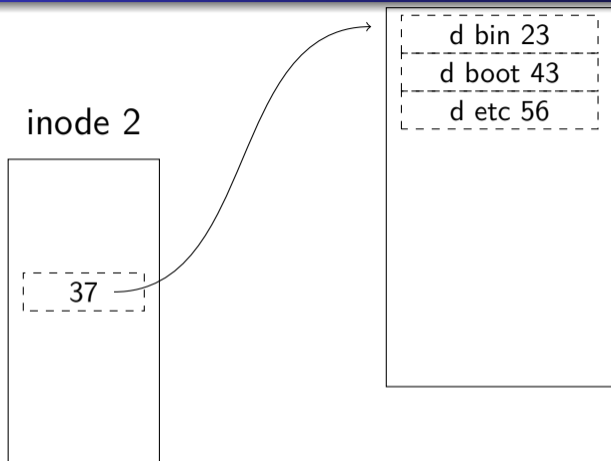




## a directory



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*The inode of the root directory is specified by the file system (possibly in the super block).*

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*to use istat, install: `sudo apt install sleuthkit`*

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*Think about this the next time you complain about your computer being slow.*

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Caching: keep frequently used inodes and data blocks in memory.

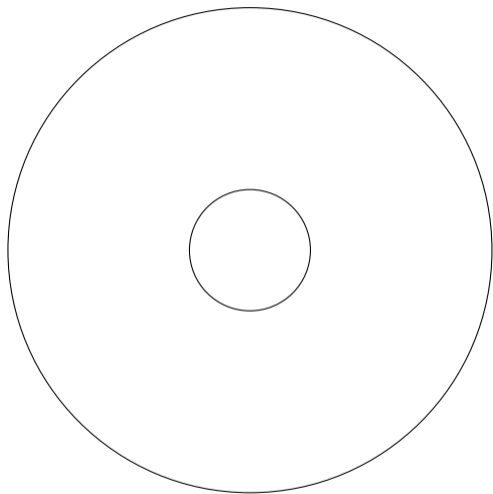
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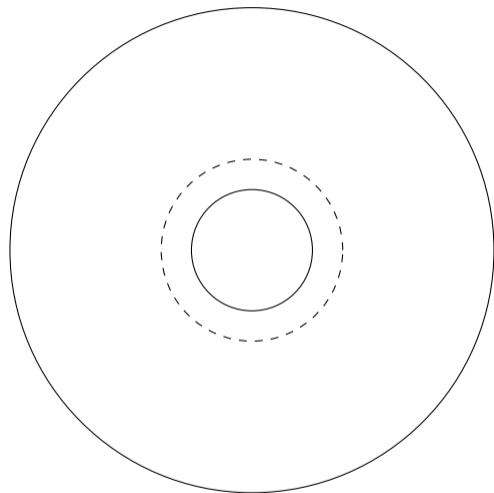
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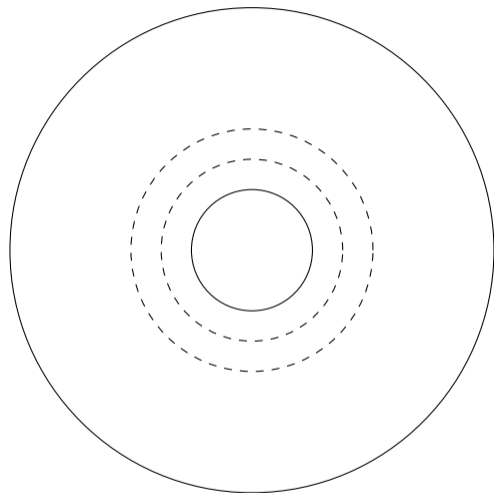


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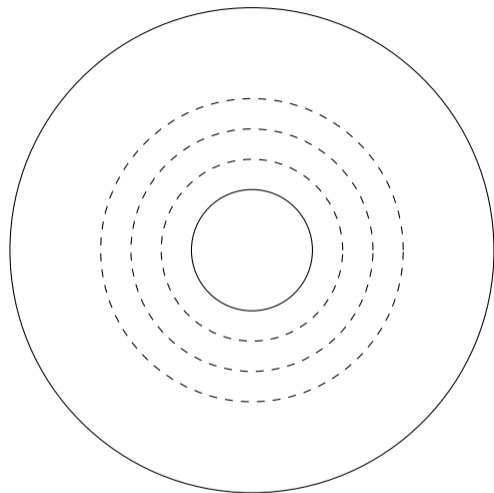
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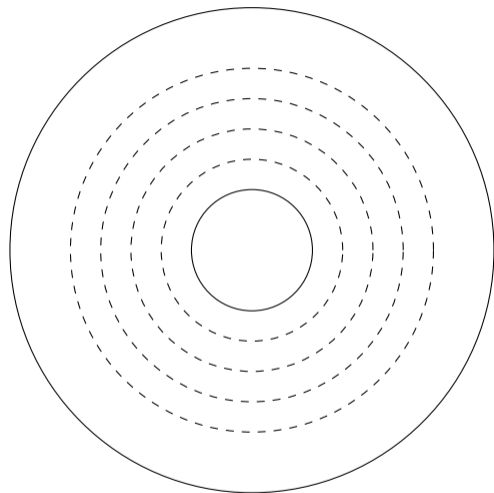


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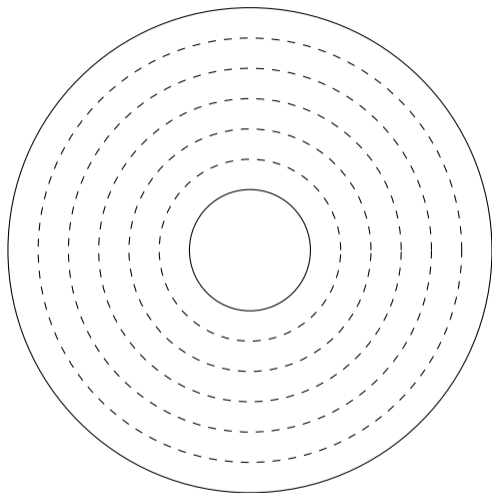
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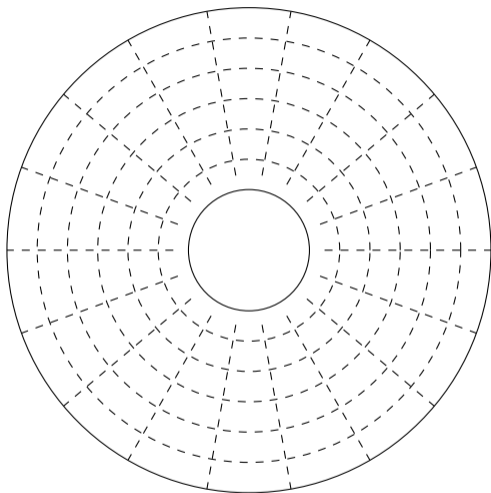
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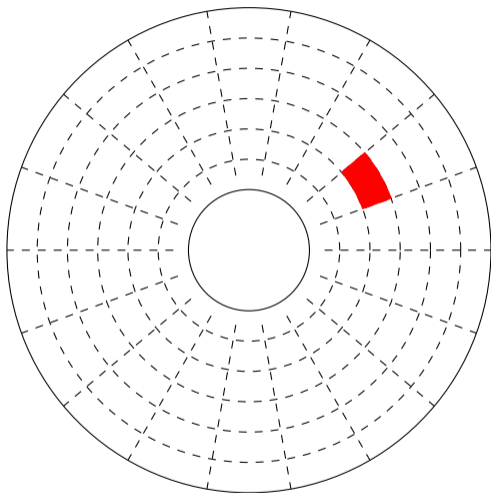
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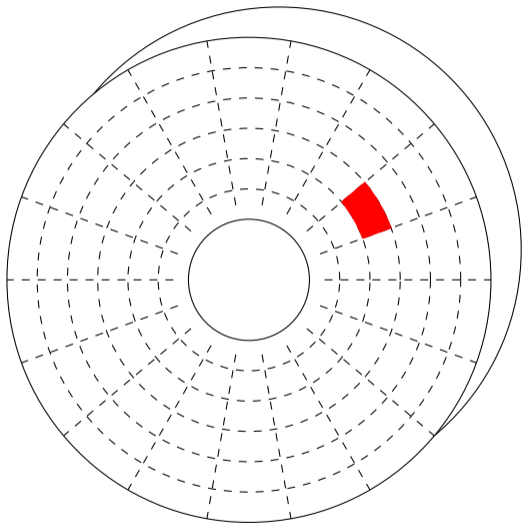
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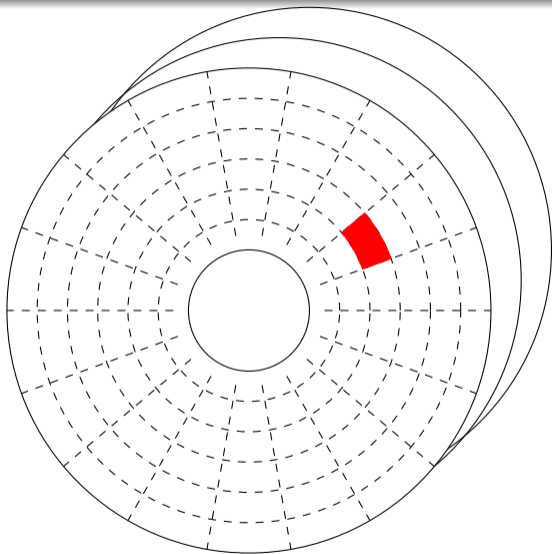
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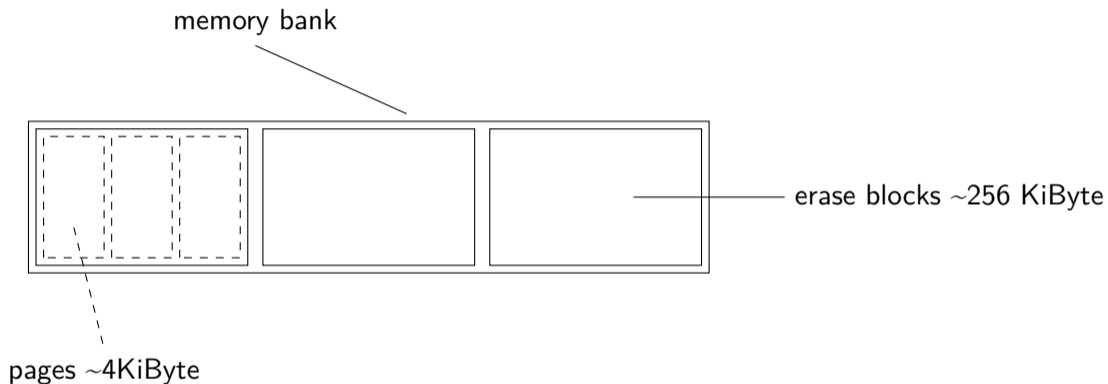
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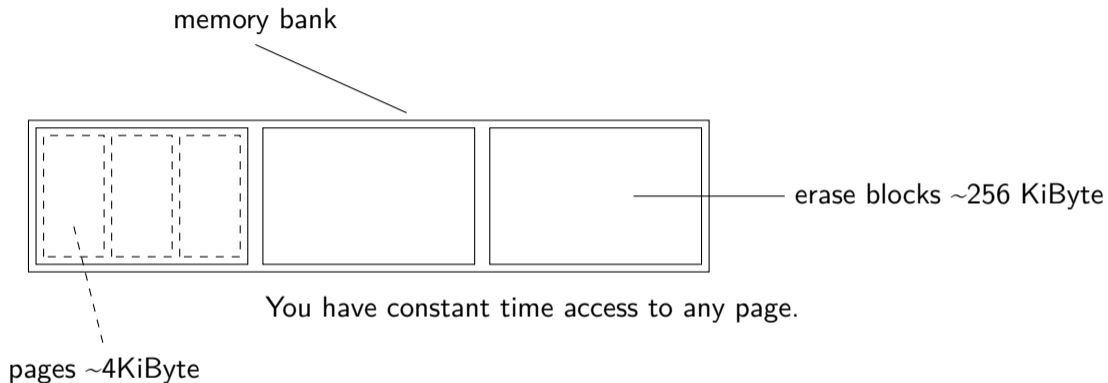
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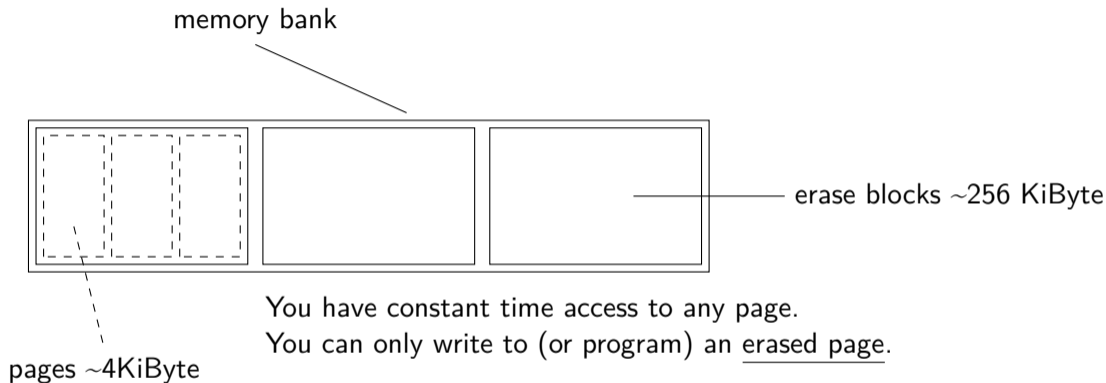
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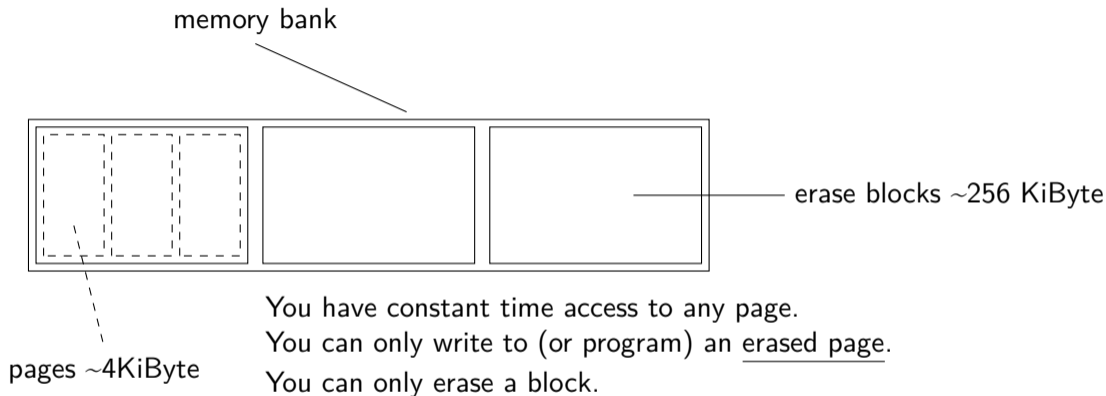
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- Do we provide persistent storage?
- Is the storage much larger or cheaper than main memory?
- Can processes use the file system to share data?

All files accessible in a Unix system are arranged in one big tree, the file hierarchy, rooted at /. These files can be spread out over several devices. The mount command serves to attach the filesystem found on some device to the big file tree. Conversely, the `umount(8)` command will detach it again.

The standard form of the mount command is:

```
mount -t type device dir
```

This tells the kernel to attach the filesystem found on `device` (which is of type `type`) at the directory `dir`. The previous contents (if any) and owner and mode of `dir` become invisible, and as long as this filesystem remains mounted, the pathname `dir` refers to the root of the filesystem on `device`.

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- FAT32 : older file system from Microsoft, used if you want maximal portability



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