Chapter 13: I/O Systems

- I/O Hardware
- Application I/O Interface
- Kernel I/O Subsystem
- Transforming I/O Requests to Hardware Operations
- Streams
- Performance
Objectives

- Explore the structure of an operating system's I/O subsystem
- Discuss the principles of I/O hardware and its complexity
- Provide details of the performance aspects of I/O hardware and software

I/O Hardware

- Incredible variety of I/O devices
- Common concepts
  - Port
  - Bus (daisy chain or shared direct access)
  - Controller (host adapter)
- I/O instructions control devices
- Devices have addresses, used by
  - Direct I/O instructions
  - Memory-mapped I/O
A Typical PC Bus Structure

Device I/O Port Locations on PCs (partial)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I/O address range (hexadecimal)</th>
<th>device</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>000–00F</td>
<td>DMA controller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>020–021</td>
<td>interrupt controller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>040–043</td>
<td>timer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200–20F</td>
<td>game controller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2F8–2FF</td>
<td>serial port (secondary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>320–32F</td>
<td>hard-disk controller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>378–37F</td>
<td>parallel port</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3D0–3DF</td>
<td>graphics controller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3F0–3F7</td>
<td>diskette-drive controller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3F8–3FF</td>
<td>serial port (primary)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Polling

- Determines state of device
  - command-ready
  - busy
  - Error
- **Busy-wait** cycle to wait for I/O from device

Interrupts

- CPU **interrupt-request line** triggered by I/O device
- **Interrupt handler** receives interrupts
- **Maskable** to ignore or delay some interrupts
- Interrupt vector to dispatch interrupt to correct handler
  - Based on priority
  - Some **nonmaskable**
- Interrupt mechanism also used for exceptions
Interrupt-Driven I/O Cycle

1. The CPU initiates the I/O cycle.
2. The I/O controller initiates the I/O.
3. The I/O controller checks if the I/O is ready.
4. If the I/O is ready, the CPU receives the interrupt.
5. The CPU transfers control to the interrupt handler.
6. The interrupt handler processes the data and returns.
7. The CPU resumes processing of the interrupted task.

Intel Pentium Processor Event-Vector Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vector number</th>
<th>description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>divide error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>debug exception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>null interrupt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>breakpoint</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>INTO-detected overflow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>bound range exception</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>invalid opcode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>device not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>double fault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>coprocessor segment overrun (reserved)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>invalid task state segment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>segment not present</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>stack fault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>general protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>page fault</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>(Intel reserved, do not use)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>floating-point error</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>alignment check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>machine check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19–31</td>
<td>(Intel reserved, do not use)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32–255</td>
<td>maskable interrupts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Direct Memory Access

- Used to avoid **programmed I/O** for large data movement
- Requires **DMA** controller
- Bypasses CPU to transfer data directly between I/O device and memory

**Six Step Process to Perform DMA Transfer**

1. Device driver is told to transfer disk data to buffer at address X
2. Device driver tells disk controller to transfer C bytes from disk to buffer at address X
3. Disk controller initiates DMA transfer
4. Disk controller sends each byte to DMA controller
5. DMA controller transfers bytes to buffer X, increasing memory address and decreasing C until C = 0
6. When C = 0, DMA interrupts CPU to signal transfer completion
Application I/O Interface

- I/O system calls encapsulate device behaviors in generic classes
- Device-driver layer hides differences among I/O controllers from kernel
- Devices vary in many dimensions
  - Character-stream or block
  - Sequential or random-access
  - Sharable or dedicated
  - Speed of operation
  - read-write, read only, or write only

A Kernel I/O Structure
Characteristics of I/O Devices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aspect</th>
<th>variation</th>
<th>example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>data-transfer mode</td>
<td>character</td>
<td>terminal disk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>block</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>access method</td>
<td>sequential</td>
<td>modem CD-ROM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>random</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>transfer schedule</td>
<td>synchronous</td>
<td>tape keyboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>asynchronous</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sharing</td>
<td>dedicated</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>sharable</td>
<td>tape keyboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>latency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>seek time</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>transfer rate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>delay between operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I/O direction</td>
<td>read only</td>
<td>CD-ROM graphics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>write only</td>
<td>controller disk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>read–write</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Block and Character Devices

- Block devices include disk drives
  - Commands include read, write, seek
  - Raw I/O or file-system access
  - Memory-mapped file access possible

- Character devices include keyboards, mice, serial ports
  - Commands include `get`, `put`
  - Libraries layered on top allow line editing
Network Devices

- Varying enough from block and character to have own interface
- Unix and Windows NT/9x/2000 include socket interface
  - Separates network protocol from network operation
  - Includes `select` functionality
- Approaches vary widely (pipes, FIFOs, streams, queues, mailboxes)

Clocks and Timers

- Provide current time, elapsed time, timer
- **Programmable interval timer** used for timings, periodic interrupts
- `ioctl` (on UNIX) covers odd aspects of I/O such as clocks and timers
Blocking and Nonblocking I/O

- **Blocking** - process suspended until I/O completed
  - Easy to use and understand
  - Insufficient for some needs

- **Nonblocking** - I/O call returns as much as available
  - User interface, data copy (buffered I/O)
  - Implemented via multi-threading
  - Returns quickly with count of bytes read or written

- **Asynchronous** - process runs while I/O executes
  - Difficult to use
  - I/O subsystem signals process when I/O completed

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Two I/O Methods

1. **Synchronous**
   - Requesting process waiting
   - Device driver
   - Interrupt handler
   - Hardware data transfer
   - Time

2. **Asynchronous**
   - Requesting process
   - Device driver
   - Interrupt handler
   - Hardware data transfer
   - Time
Kernel I/O Subsystem

- Scheduling
  - Some I/O request ordering via per-device queue
  - Some OSs try fairness

- Buffering - store data in memory while transferring between devices
  - To cope with device speed mismatch
  - To cope with device transfer size mismatch
  - To maintain “copy semantics”

Device-status Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>device: keyboard status: idle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>device: laser printer status: busy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>device: mouse status: idle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>device: disk unit 1 status: idle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>device: disk unit 2 status: busy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Request for laser printer address: 38546 length: 1372

Request for disk unit 2
- file: xxx
  - operation: read
  - address: 43046
  - length: 20000

Request for disk unit 2
- file: yyy
  - operation: write
  - address: 03458
  - length: 500
Kernel I/O Subsystem

- **Caching** - fast memory holding copy of data
  - Always just a copy
  - Key to performance

- **Spooling** - hold output for a device
  - If device can serve only one request at a time
  - i.e., Printing

- **Device reservation** - provides exclusive access to a device
  - System calls for allocation and deallocation
  - Watch out for deadlock
Error Handling

- OS can recover from disk read, device unavailable, transient write failures
- Most return an error number or code when I/O request fails
- System error logs hold problem reports

I/O Protection

- User process may accidentally or purposefully attempt to disrupt normal operation via illegal I/O instructions
  - All I/O instructions defined to be privileged
  - I/O must be performed via system calls
    - Memory-mapped and I/O port memory locations must be protected too
Use of a System Call to Perform I/O

Kernel Data Structures

- Kernel keeps state info for I/O components, including open file tables, network connections, character device state
- Many, many complex data structures to track buffers, memory allocation, “dirty” blocks
- Some use object-oriented methods and message passing to implement I/O
I/O Requests to Hardware Operations

- Consider reading a file from disk for a process:
  - Determine device holding file
  - Translate name to device representation
  - Physically read data from disk into buffer
  - Make data available to requesting process
  - Return control to process
**STREAMS**

- **STREAM** – a full-duplex communication channel between a user-level process and a device in Unix System V and beyond

- A STREAM consists of:
  - STREAM head interfaces with the user process
  - driver end interfaces with the device
  - zero or more STREAM modules between them.

- Each module contains a **read queue** and a **write queue**

- Message passing is used to communicate between queues
I/O a major factor in system performance:

- Demands CPU to execute device driver, kernel I/O code
- Context switches due to interrupts
- Data copying
- Network traffic especially stressful
Improving Performance

- Reduce number of context switches
- Reduce data copying
- Reduce interrupts by using large transfers, smart controllers, polling
- Use DMA
- Balance CPU, memory, bus, and I/O performance for highest throughput