DIRECTORY STRUCTURE

• A collection of nodes containing information about all files



Both the directory structure and the files reside on disk Backups of these two structures are kept on tapes

A Typical File-system Organization



Operations Performed on Directory

- Search for a file
- Create a file
- Delete a file
- List a directory
- Rename a file
- Traverse the file system

Organize the Directory (Logically) to Obtain

- Efficiency locating a file quickly
- Naming convenient to users
 - Two users can have same name for different files
 - The same file can have several different names
- Grouping logical grouping of files by properties, (e.g., all Java programs, all games, ...)

Single-Level Directory

• A single directory for all users



Naming problem

Grouping problem

Two-Level Directory

• Separate directory for each user



- Path name
- Can have the same file name for different user
- Efficient searching
- No grouping capability

Tree-Structured Directories



Tree-Structured Directories (Cont)

- Efficient searching
- Grouping Capability
- Current directory (working directory)
 - cd /spell/mail/prog
 - type list

Tree-Structured Directories (Cont)

- Absolute or relative path name
- Creating a new file is done in current directory
- Delete a file



 Creating a new subdirectory is done in current directory mkdir <dir-name>

Example: if in current directory /mail

mkdir count



Deleting "mail" \Rightarrow deleting the entire subtree rooted by "mail"

Acyclic-Graph Directories

• Have shared subdirectories and files



Acyclic-Graph Directories (Cont.)

- Two different names (aliasing)
- If *dict* deletes *list* \Rightarrow dangling pointer

Solutions:

- Backpointers, so we can delete all pointers Variable size records a problem
- Backpointers using a daisy chain organization
- Entry-hold-count solution
- New directory entry type
 - Link another name (pointer) to an existing file
 - **Resolve the link** follow pointer to locate the file

General Graph Directory



General Graph Directory (Cont.)

- How do we guarantee no cycles?
 - Allow only links to file not subdirectories
 - Garbage collection
 - Every time a new link is added use a cycle detection algorithm to determine whether it is OK