Auxiliary Memory

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Contents

• What is auxiliary memory?

Magnetic memory

- Magnetic Disks: Hard Disks and Floppy Disks
- Magnetic Tapes

Optical disks

- CD (Compact Disk) or CD-ROM
- CD-R (CD Recordable)
- CD-RW (CD-Read/Write)
- DVD (Digital Versatile Disk)-ROM
- DVD-R
- DVD-RW

Auxiliary Memory

- Used to overcome the limitations of primary storage.
- Unlimited capacity because the cost per bit of storage is very low.
- Larger capacity than main memory.
- Used to store large volumes of data on a permanent basis.
- It is Non-volatile in nature.
- Also known as Secondary Memory.

- Permanent type memory.
- Data can store on the magnetic coated surface by applying electric pulses.
- Two techniques of data recording: longitudinal and vertical.
- Magnetoresistive (MR) sensor is used to read data.
- Older disks has single write/read head.



Magnetic Disks

- Read/Write data from/to its surface on platters.
- Surface divided into tracks and sectors.



- Supports direct access mechanism.
- Has a disk controller.
- Has read/write head.

Tracks and Sectors



Constant angular velocity

Multiple zones recording

Functions of Disk Controller

- To interface a disk system to the CPU.
- Disk drive selection, in case of multiple disks.
- Track and sector selection.
- To issue commands to the disk drive system to perform read/write operations.
- Error detection.

Types of Magnetic Disks

Hard Disks



Floppy Disks •



Write protect slot

Hard Disks

- On-line storage devices.
- Used to store bulk (mass) amount of information.
- Made up of aluminium with a thin coating of magnetic material (iron oxide).
- Size 3.5 inch used in desktop computers.
- Size 2.5 inch used in portable computers.

Auxiliary Memory

Magnetic Memory

Storage Capacity of Hard Disks

Storage capacity = Number of recording surfaces X Number of tracks per surface X Number of sectors per track X Number of bytes per sector **Auxiliary Memory**

Access Mechanism of Hard



Types of Hard Disks



Floppy Disk

- Made up of plastic material (Mylar) coated with magnetic material (iron oxide or barium ferrite).
- Not a hard plate, very thin piece of flexible plastic.
- Also called diskette.
- It is removable type device and used as backup storage device.

Popular Floppy Disks

- 5¹/₄ inch Diskette (Minifloppy)
 - Encased in square, flexible vinyl jacket.
 - 1.2 MB size.

- 3¹/₂ inch Diskette (Microfloppy)
 - Encased in square, hard plastic jacket.
 - 1.44 MB size.

FDD (Floppy Disk Drive)



Magnetic Tapes

- Used as backup memory.
- Sequential access device.
- Made up of flexible polyester coated with magnetizable material (iron oxide or chromium oxide).
- Size varies from 3 mm to 12.7 mm.
- Available in real, cartridge and cassette form.

Storage capacity of Magnetic Tapes

Storage capacity = Data recording density X Length.

Physical organization of data on Magnetic Tapes

- Tracks are parallel to tape length.
- Horizontal rows called tracks or channel.
- Vertical columns called frames.



Optical Disks

- Used for backup memory.
- Circular disk, coated with a thin metal or some other material that is highly reflective.
- Read/Write operation can perform using laser beam.
- Has very high storing capacity, compares to magnetic floppy disks.
- Direct access device.

Auxiliary Memory

Optical Disks

Storage Organization of Optical Disks

- Has one long spiral track.
- Track divided into equal length sectors.



Track on disk



Sectors on disk

Optical Disks

Storage Capacity of Optical Disks

Storage capacity = Number of sectors X Number of bytes per sector.

Disks

Optical Disks

Access Mechanism on Optical Disks



Optical Disks

Types of Optical Disks

- Compact Disk
 - CD-ROM
 - CD-R
 - CD-RW

- Digital Versatile Disk
 - DVD-ROM
 - DVD-R
 - DVD-RW

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Queries?