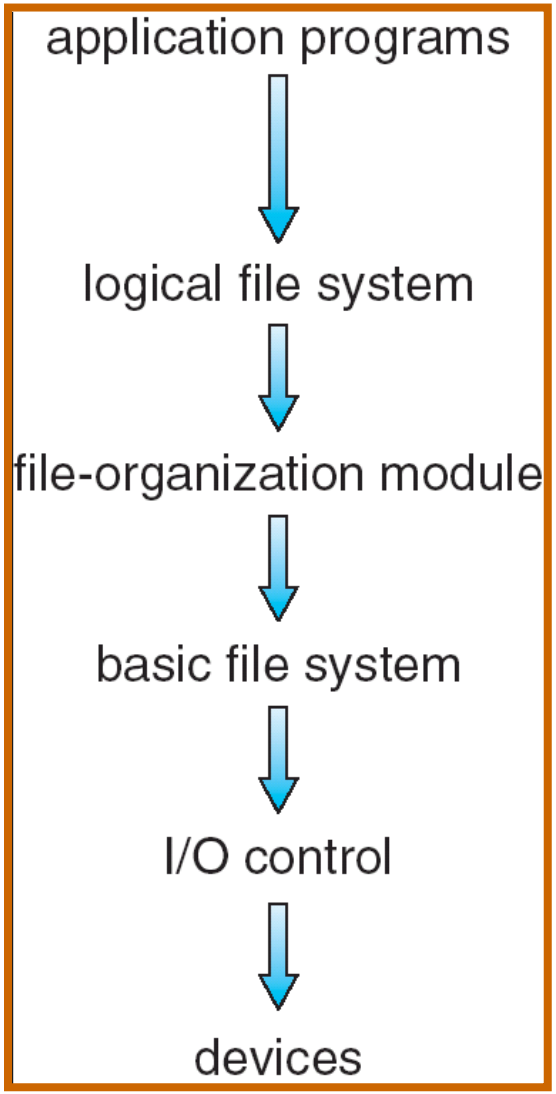
# File System Implementation

- File structure
  - Logical storage unit
  - Collection of related information
- File system resides on secondary storage (such as disks)

1. Boot control block - information needed to boot
2. Volume control block - information about volume/partitions (# blocks, size of blocks, free block count, free block pointers)
3. Directory structure (inode)
4. Per file control blocks

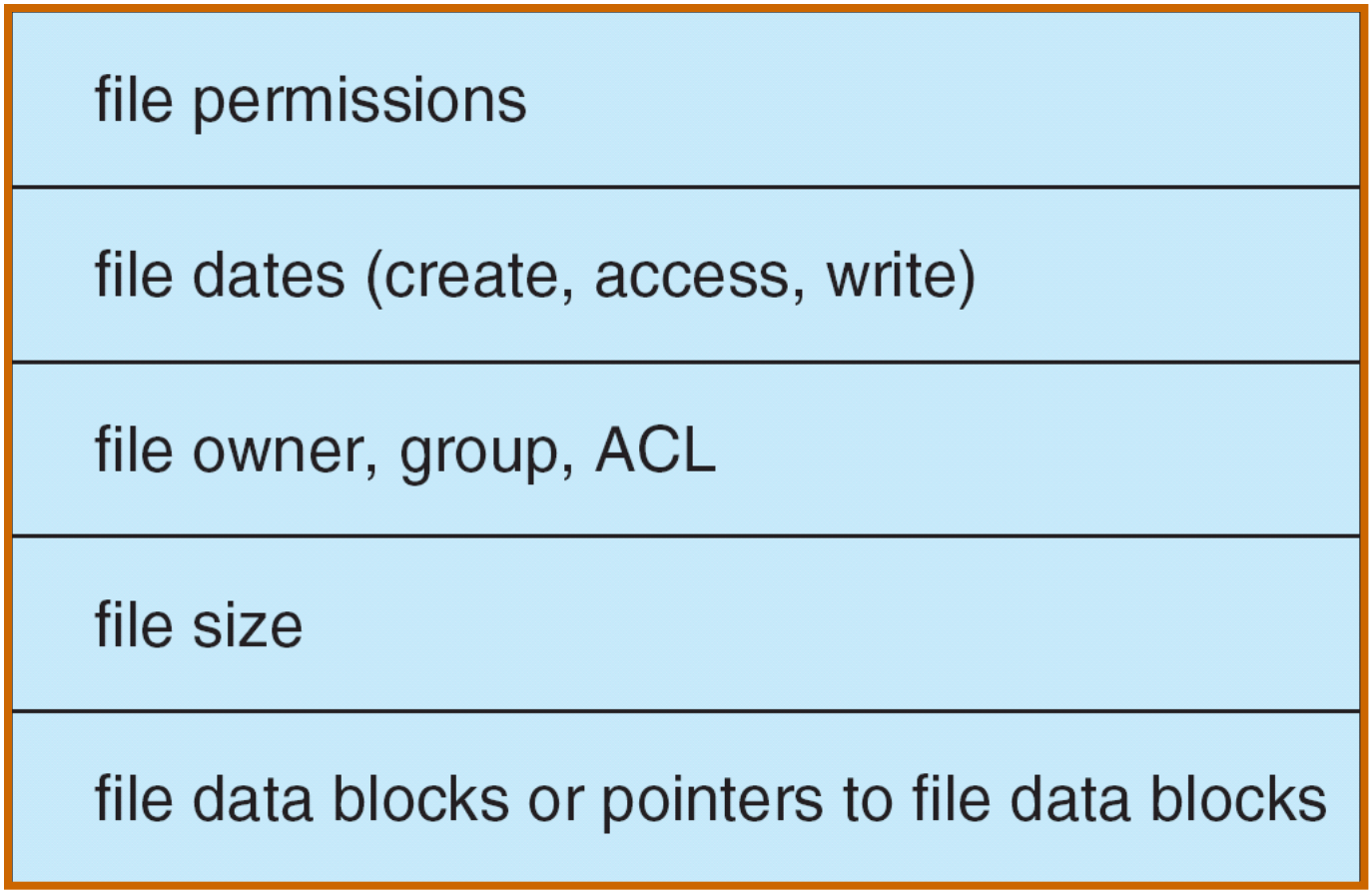
- File system organized into layers

# Layered File System

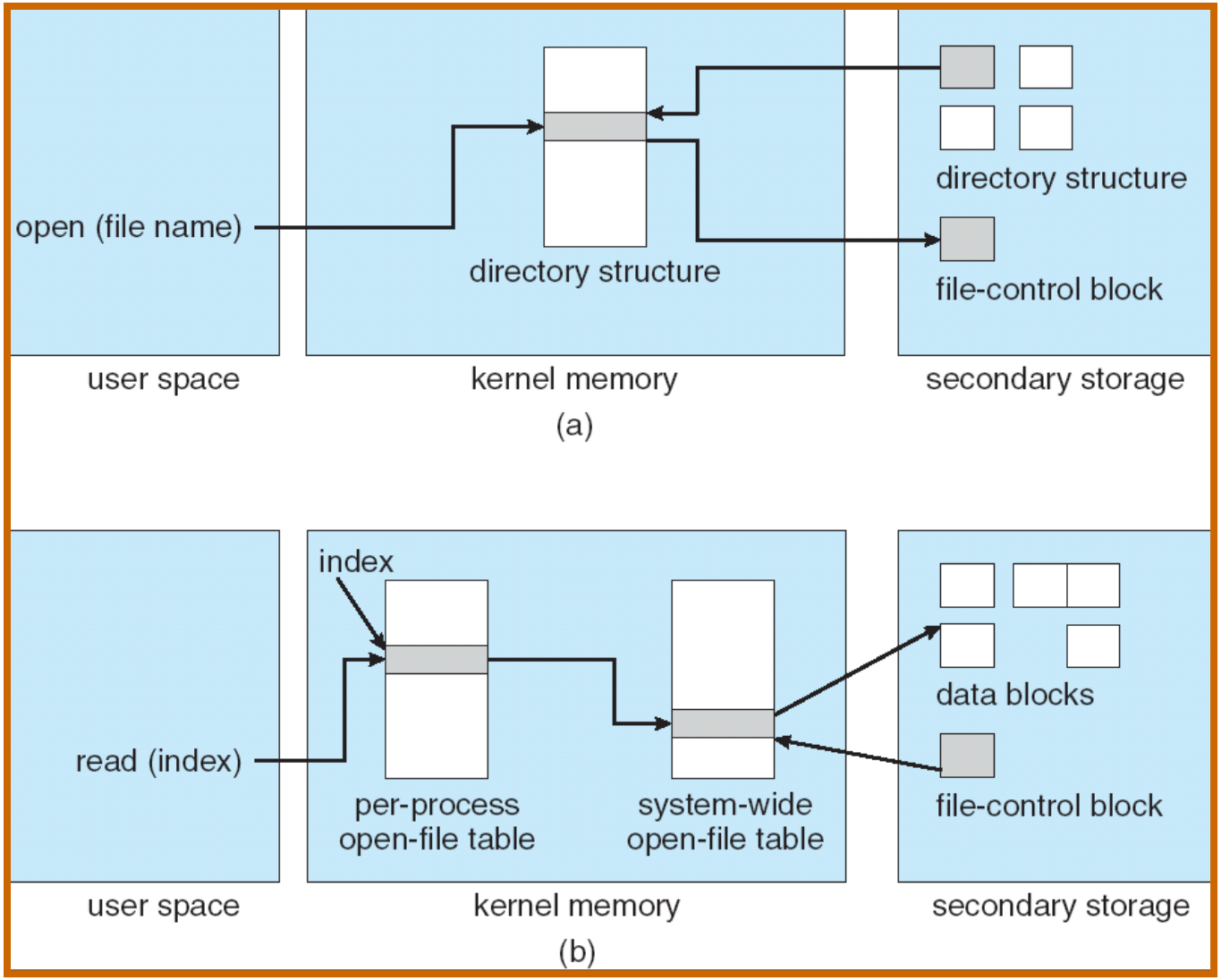



# A Typical File Control Block

- **File control block** – storage structure consisting of information about a file



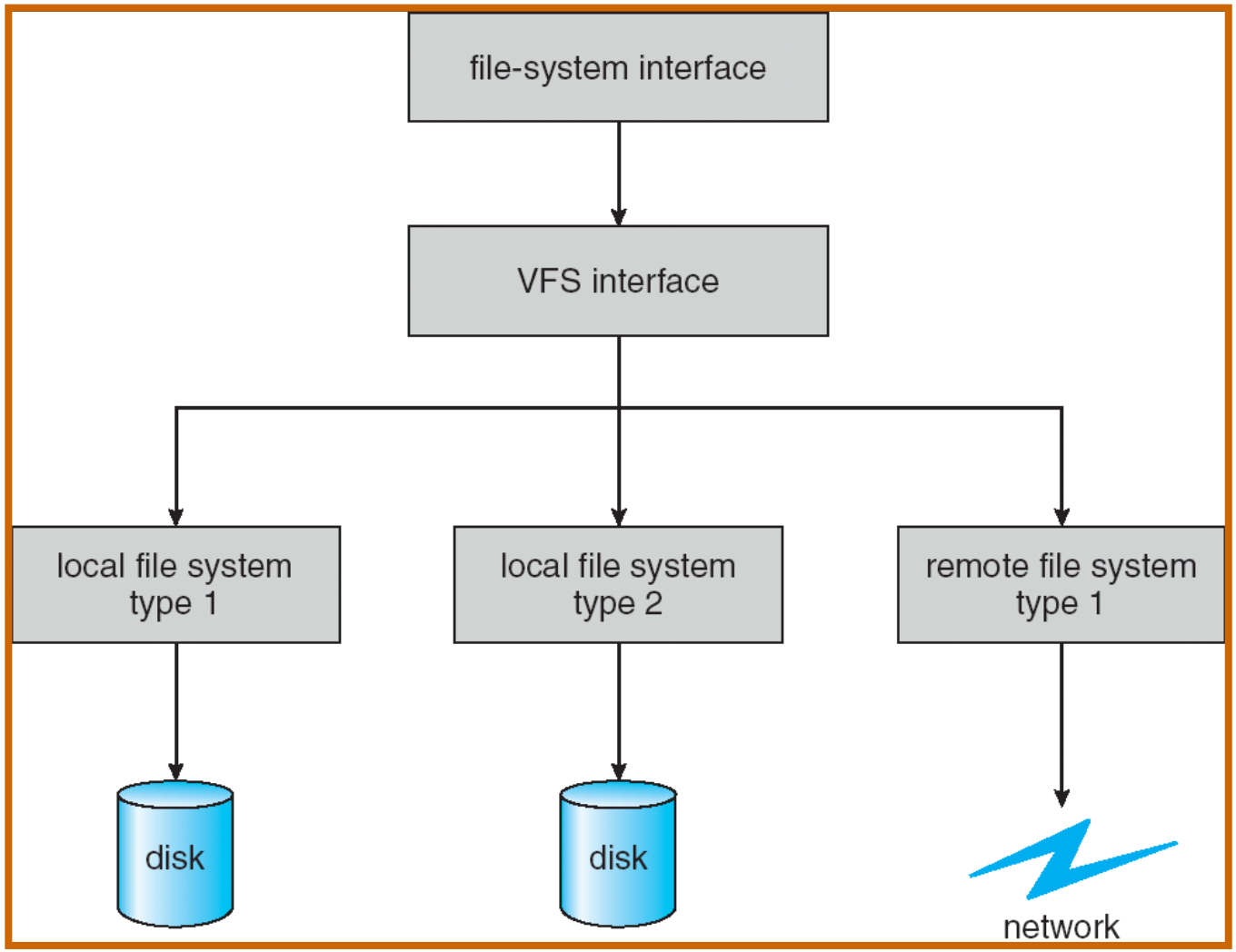

# In-Memory File System Structures




# Virtual File Systems

- There are many different file systems available on any operating systems
  - Windows: NTFS, FAT, FAT32
  - Linux: ext2/ext3, ufs, vfat, ramfs, tmpfs, reiserfs, xfs ...
- Virtual File Systems (VFS) provide an object-oriented way of implementing file systems
- VFS allows the same system call interface (the API) to be used for different types of file systems
- The API is to the VFS interface, rather than any specific type of file system

# Schematic View of Virtual File System




# Directory Implementation

- **Directories hold information about files**
- **Linear list** of file names with pointer to the data blocks.
  - simple to program
  - time-consuming to execute

- **Hash Table** – linear list with hash data structure.
  - decreases directory search time
  - **collisions** – situations where two file names hash to the same location
  - fixed size

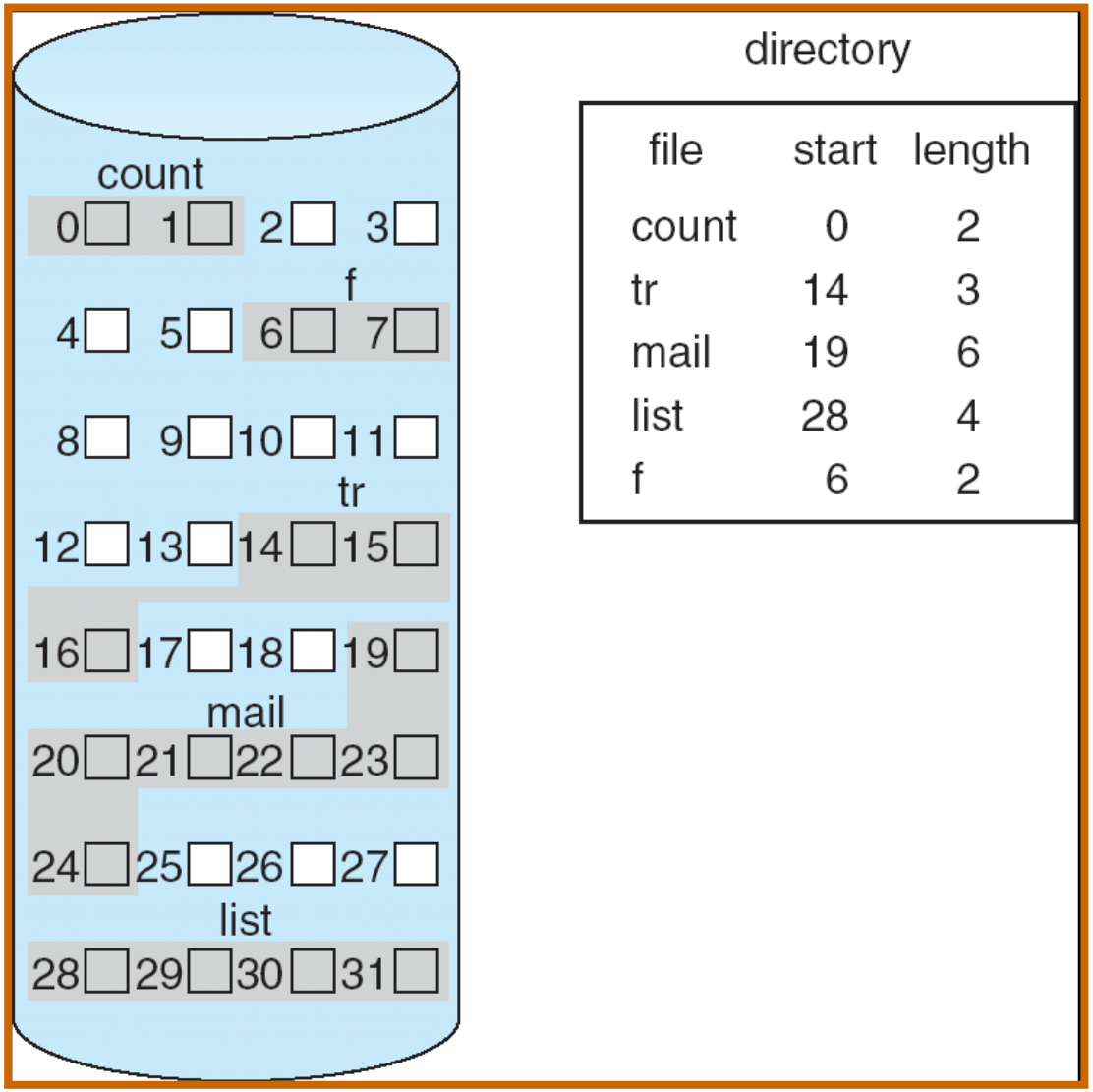
# Allocation Methods

- An allocation method refers to how disk blocks are allocated for files:
- **Contiguous allocation**
- **Linked allocation**
- **Indexed allocation**

# Contiguous Allocation

- Each file occupies a set of contiguous blocks on the disk
- Simple – only starting location (block #) and length (number of blocks) are required
- Random access
- Wasteful of space (dynamic storage-allocation problem)
- Files cannot grow

# Contiguous Allocation of Disk Space

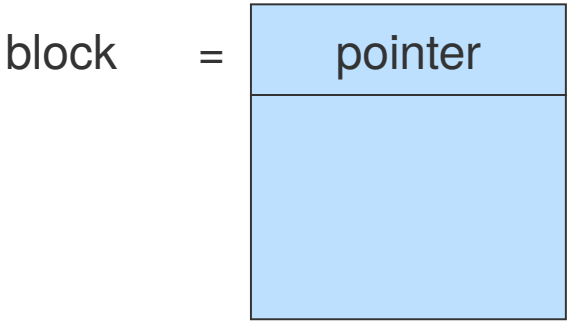



# Extent-Based Systems

- Many newer file systems (I.e. Veritas File System) use a modified contiguous allocation scheme
- Extent-based file systems allocate disk blocks in **extents**
- An **extent** is a contiguous block of disks
  - Extents are allocated for file allocation
  - A file consists of one or more extents.

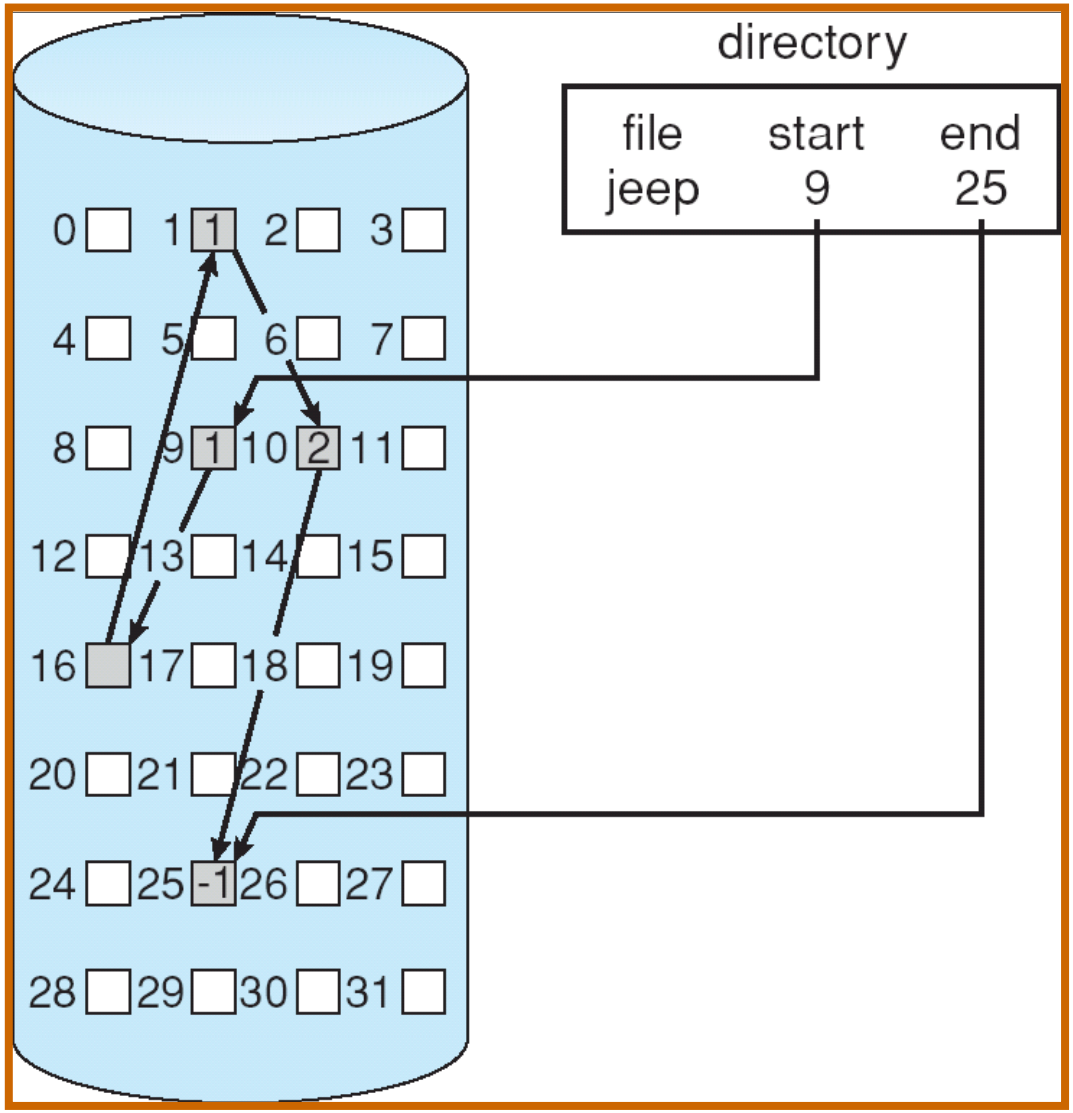
# Linked Allocation

- Each file is a linked list of disk blocks: blocks may be scattered anywhere on the disk.

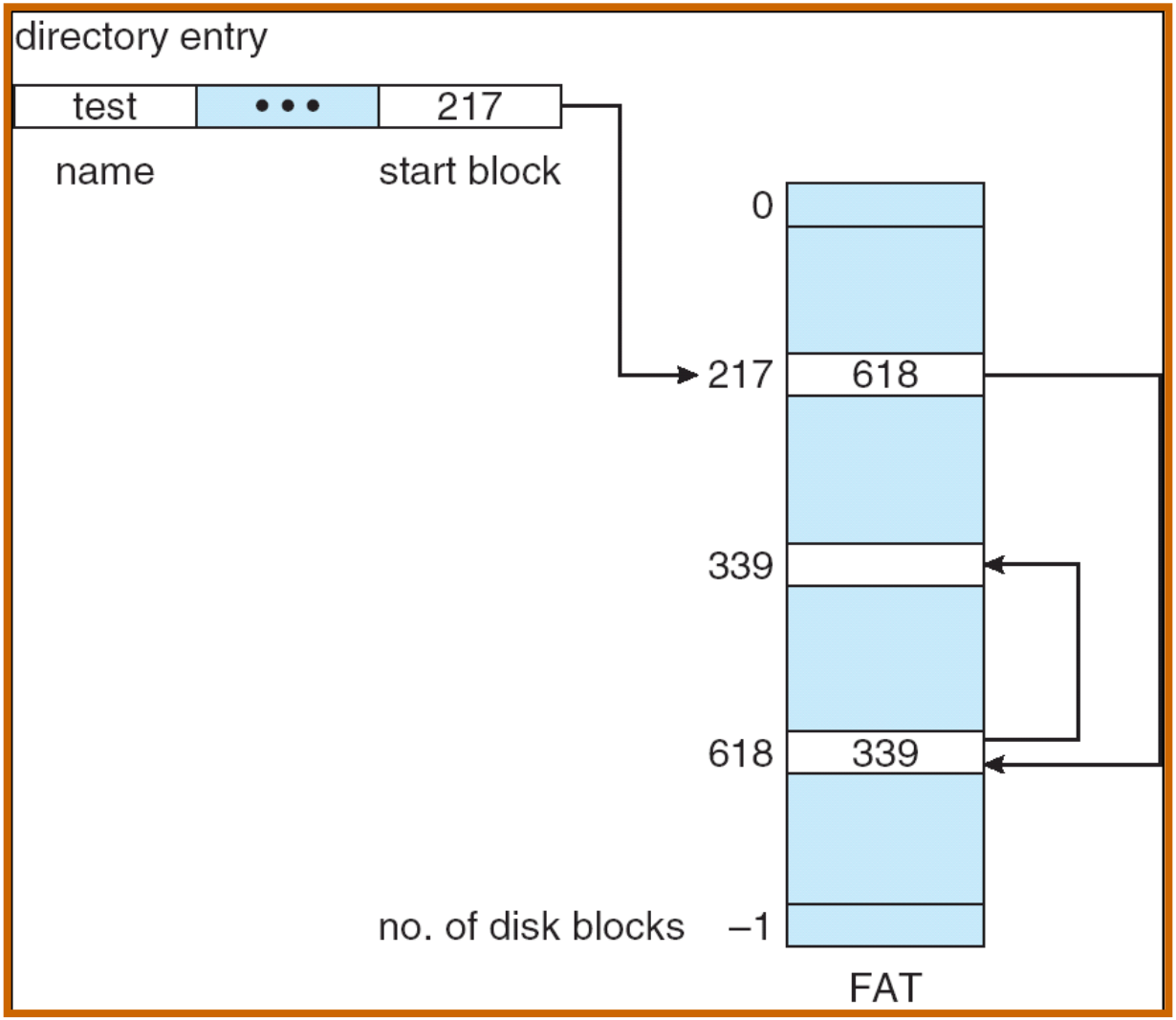



- Simple – need only starting address
- Free-space management system – no waste of space
- No random access

# Linked Allocation

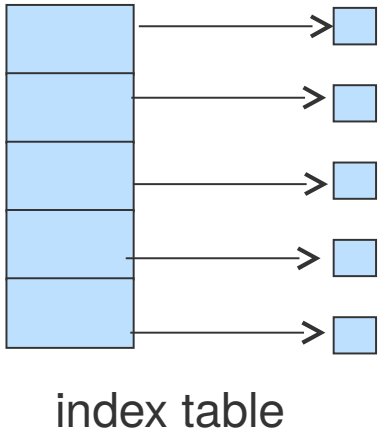



# File-Allocation Table (DOS FAT)

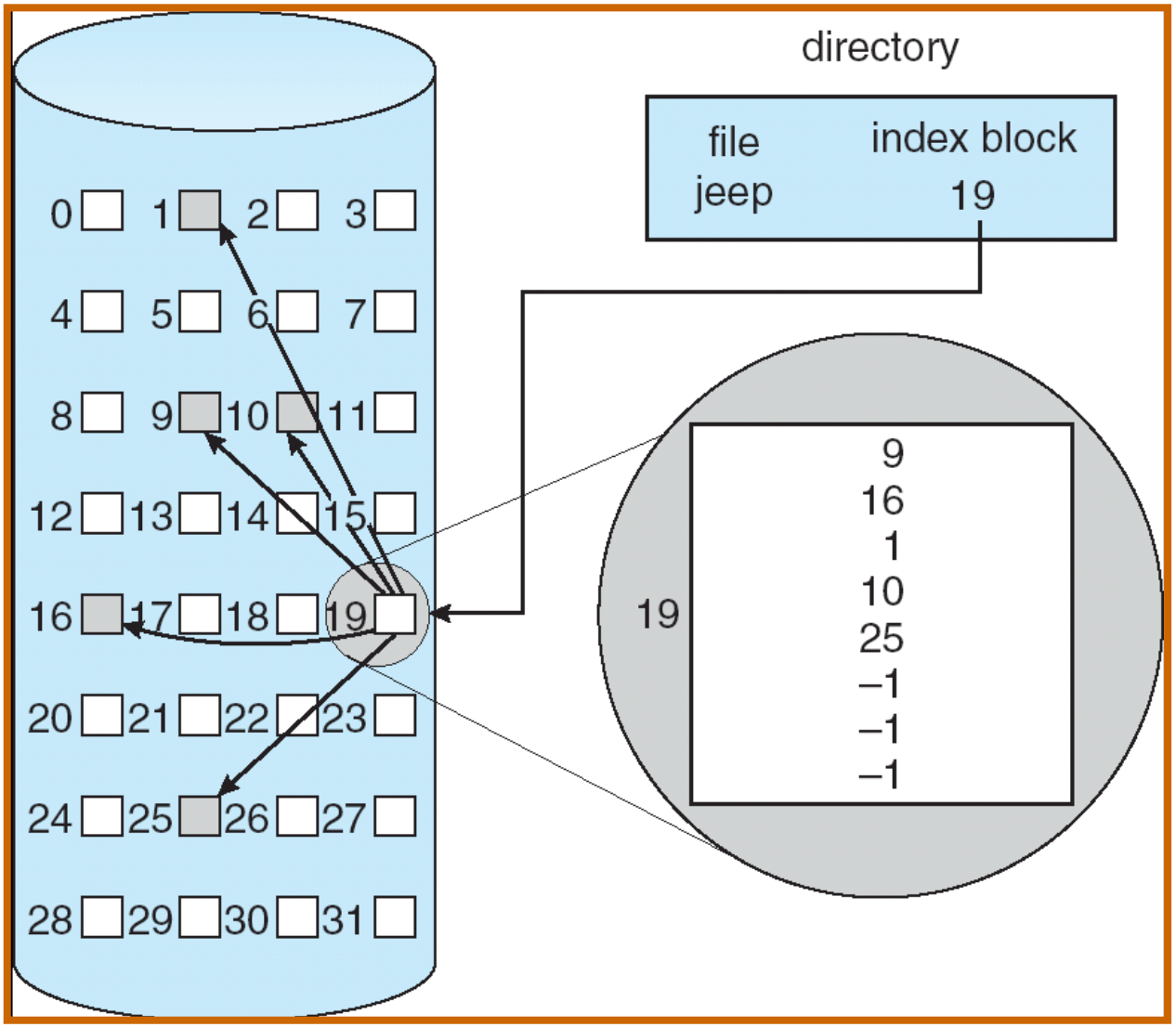



# Indexed Allocation

- Brings all pointers together into the *index block.*
- Logical view.



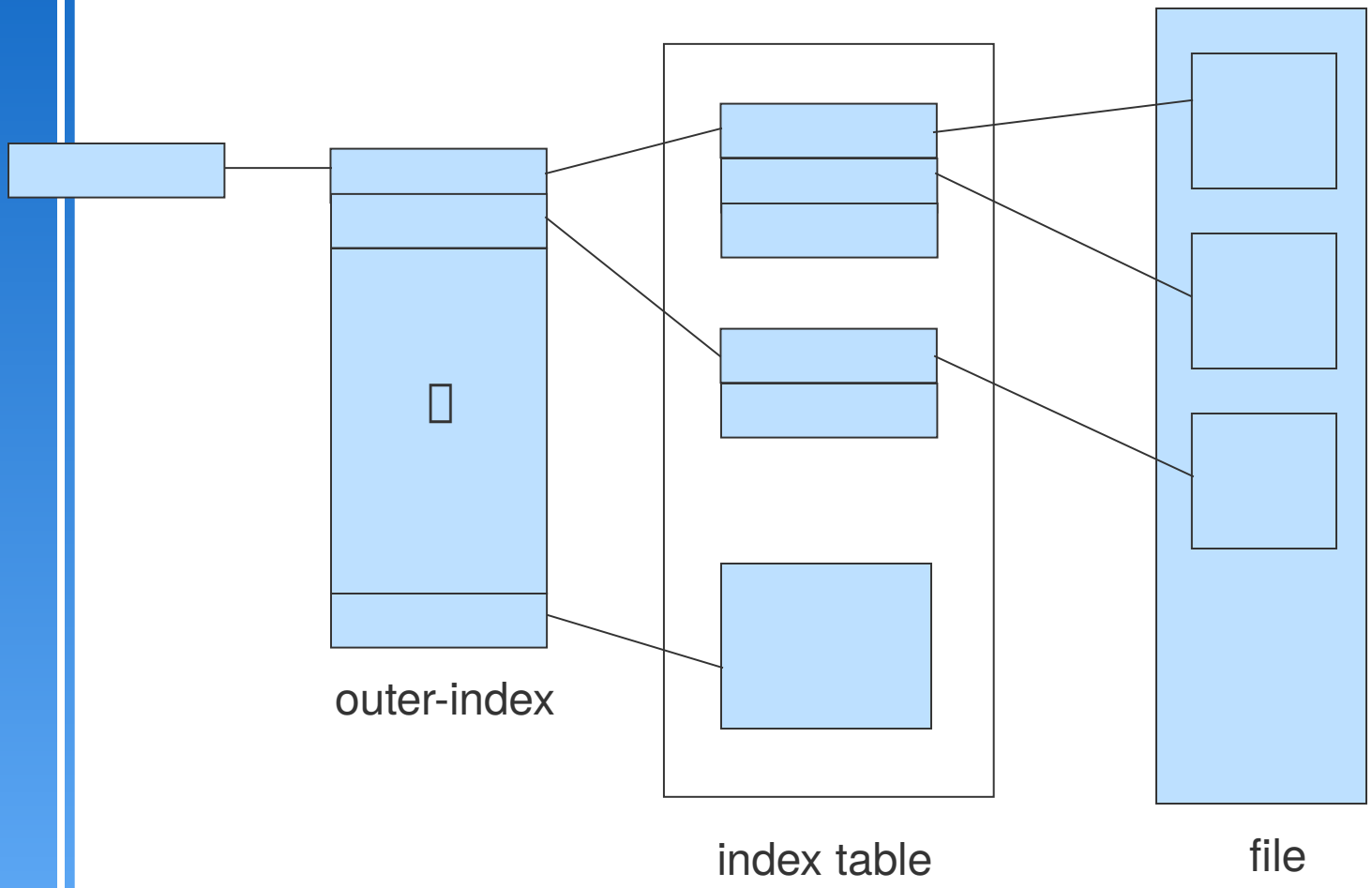

# Example of Indexed Allocation




# Indexed Allocation (Cont.)

- Need index table
- Random access
- Dynamic access without external fragmentation, but have overhead of index block.
- Mapping from logical to physical in a file of maximum size of 256K words and block size of 512 words.  We need only 1 block for index table.

# Indexed Allocation – Mapping (Cont.)




# Combined Scheme: UNIX (4K bytes per block)