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Nuttx FS

原文 <http://blog.csdn.net/chengwenyang/article/details/70213085> 2017-04-17 19:02:41 6 °C 0 评论

This article present how the FS in Nuttx works, we will use fat fs as the example to explain it, at the last, this article shows the mount process of MMC block driver.

inode

inode is one of the basic data structure in Nuttx OS

```

struct inode {
    struct inode *i_peer;
    struct inode *i_child;
    int_16_t      i_crefs;
    unit16_t     i_flags;
    union inode_ops_u u;
    mode_t       i_mode;
    void         *i_private;
    char         i_name[1];
}

```

the member of inode structure is self-explained

i_peer points to its brother inode at the same level.

i_child points to its child inode

i_crefs is used to track how many user are access the inode

i_flags is a bit mask to distinguish the type of the inode, usually it may be one of three types, drive, block or mountpoint. besides, if the inode is deleted, its i_flag domain should be colored.

inode_ops_u is an union structure, if the inode is a driver inode, this domain is the file operation pointer for operating the driver, if the inode is block device, then inode_ops_u is the pointer to the block device' s file operation structure. similarly, if the inode represent the mount point, this domain pointes to the mount point file operation.

i_private is a private pointer which will be used if the driver needs it

the last domain is the name of the inode

For example, the devices under /dev are registered in the system when we call **register_blockdriver** or **register_driver**.

let' s take register_blockdriver as example:

```

int register_blockdriver(const char *path, struct block_operation *bops, mode_t mode, void *priv)
{
    ...
    ret = inode_reserve(path, &node);
    if (ret >= 0) {
        node->u.i_bops = bops;
        node->i_mode = mode;
        node->i_private = priv;
        ret = OK;
    }
}

```

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```

        return ret;
    }
}

```

the first operation of registering block driver is to reserve an inode to representing the driver, it can be /dev/led, or /dev/mmc0. etc. the path parameter contains the name of the inode, it will be /dev/mmc0 if the path param here is "/dev/mmc0". Then it initialize its ops, mode and priv domains. for an MMC device, its ops member is the block_operation for mmc. member priv records the info for the mmcdevice in the mmc instance.

After registering the driver, one inode will be allocated for the device in inode tree.

file

the high level concept of file inherents from Linux(unix), everything is file. the file in Nuttx is very simple.

```

struct file {
    int f_flags; // open mode
    off_t f_pos; // file position
    struct inode *f_inode; // driver interface
    void *f_priv;
}

```

f_flags is open mode such as read mode or write mode, then the file inode should support read or write operation methods

f_pos is the position of the file being operating

f_inode points to the inode that the path param in open system call described

f_priv is a private pointer for the file operation. Usually the domain can be used to contain user specific data structure.

each task has its own file descriptor allocation pool in Nuttx, the file descriptors of two or more task s may be same, but they don't share the same file.

Mount block driver to FS

we can't access the block device until we mount it to the system FS because the Nuttx uses VFS in order to support multiple file system, such fat32, romfs. VFS abstract the common properties of file operation, the difference between the underline media is handled by the specific file system.

The prototype of mount is:

```

int mount(const char *source, const char *target, const char *filesystemtype, long mountflags, void *data)

```

For example if we mount "/dev/mmc0" to "/mnt" with vfat file system type, the command line is:

```

#mount -t vfat /dev/mmc0 /mnt

```

In this example, the source is "/dev/mmc0", the target is "/mnt", file system type is "vfat".

the mount operation will create a new inode for the mounted file, and then use the bind method of the filesystem type, for example vfat, to bind the device/drive to the file system.

we introduce a data structure fat_mountpt_s to describe the new fat mount point which will be binded to file system.

```

struct fat_mountpt_s {
    struct inode *fs_blkdriver; // the block driver inode that hosts the FAT32 fs
    struct fat_file_s *fs_head; // a list to all files opened on this mount point
    sem_t fs_sem; // used to assume thread-safe access
    off_t fs_hwsectorsize; // HW: sector size reported by the block driver
    off_t fs_hwsectors; //HW: the number of sectors reported by the hardware
    off_t fs_fatbase; // logical block of start of filesystem (past read sectors)
    off_t fs_rootbase; // MBR: Cluster no of 1st cluster of root dir
    off_t fs_data_base; // logical block of start data sectors
    off_t fs_fsinfo; // MBR: Sector number of FSINFO sector
    off_t fs_currentsector; // the sector number buffered in the fs_buffer
    uint32_t fs_nclusters; // Maximum number of data colusters
}

```

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```

uint32_t fs_nfatsecoters; // MBR: Count of sectors occupied by one fat
uint32_t fs_fattotsec; // MBR: Total count of sectors on the volume
uint32_t fs_fsifreecount; // FSI: last free cluster count on the volume
uin32_t fsinextfree; // FSI: Cluster number of 1st free cluster
uint16_t fs_fatrewdccount; // MBR: The Total number of reserved sectors
uint16_t fs_rootentcnt; // MBR: Count of 32-bit root derecotry entries
bool fs_mounted // true: the file system is ready
bool fs_dirty; // true: the buffer is dirty
bool fs_fsdirty; // true: FSINFO sector must be written to disk
uint8_t fs_type // FSTYPE_FAT12, FSTYPE_FAT16, FSTYPE_FAT32
uint8_t fs_fatnumfats; // MBR: Number of FATs probably 2
uint8_t fs_fatsecperclus; // MBR: Sector per allocation unit: 2**n, n=0,..7
uint8_t *fs_buffer; // this is the allocated buffer to hold one sector from the device
}

```

the first member is the pointer to the block driver that this mount point is driven

the second is a list files that was opened from this mount point

The rest are the meat data of about the media or the control flags

the mount process we can image does the following things:

allocate new inode for the mount point

allocate specific fs mount descriptor for the new mount point, for examle structure fat_mout_s

point fs_blkdriver in fat_mount_s to the block inode which will be binded.

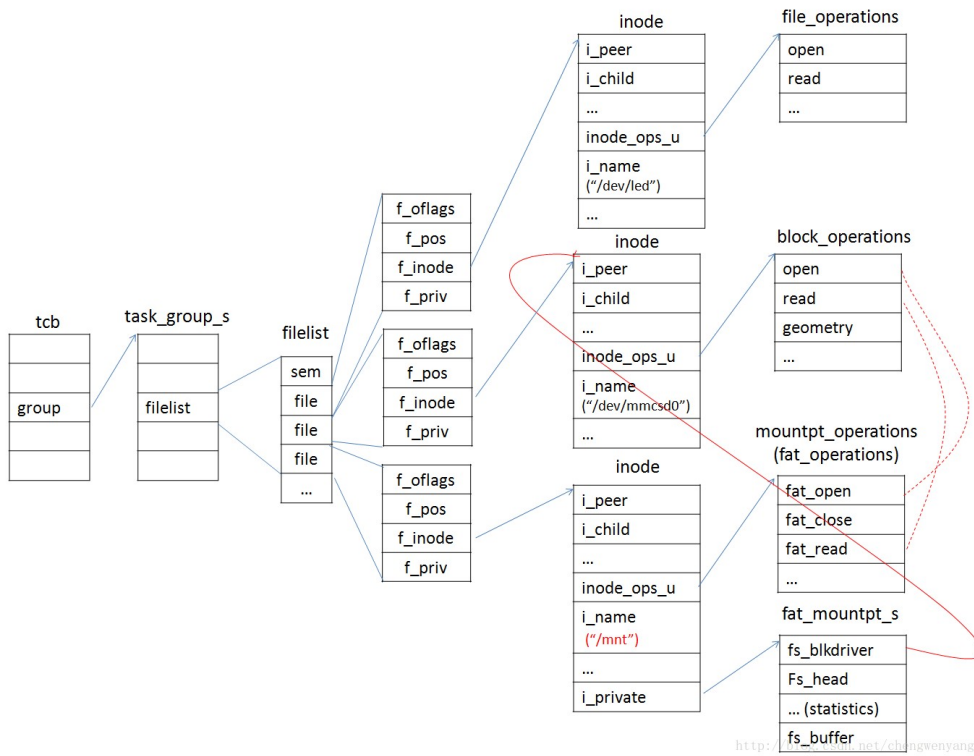
read the media to get the info of fat fs on the media

point the mount point ops to the new inode' s ops domain, for example fat_operations

and point the new inode' s priv member to the specific fs, for example structure fat_mountpt_s

at this point, the new fs is mounted to the system. we can use the general operation method, like read, write... to access the underlying media by mount_point_inode->private->fs_blockdriver->read(write. etc), but actually it doesn' t use this way.

a breif view of the data structures within Nuttx FS



In Nuttx system, basicly there are three kinds of file operations, **file_operation**, **block_operation** and **mountpt_operation**.

file_operation

file_operation is used for general character device driver like an LED, mems sensors, it provides methods to access these devices.

block_operation

Block device is different from character device, we can only read or write the device sequentially, for example, read 512 bytes from the front of one file in SD card, so we have to locate the file from fatfs and get the meta info of the file, then we start to read the file. without the help of fatfs, we even don't know where the file is in the SD card. The block_operation has methods to access the media, but we shouldn't use these methods directly, and why?

mountpt_operation

mount point operations is designed as intermedium between block driver and FS, its operation methods are binded with the specific fs, for example fatfs, romfs.

Through the mount point operation has read/write method, but they don't touch the underlying media directly, as the fact, they recall the corresponding block driver method.

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