

UNIX°SVR42



Edited by Kathy O'Leary & Matthew Wood

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ADVANCED SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION

UNIX SVR4.2

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The ufs File System Type

The ufs FSType is considerably more complex in its design than the s5 FSType. In addition to the four categories of addressable blocks found in s5, there are several additional information management disk areas. There is also a radically different method of allocating and managing these blocks. Of primary interest is the fact that multiple super-blocks are made during the mkfs procedure. One of the replicas is stored in each cylinder group, offset by a certain amount. For multiple platter disk drives, the offsets are calculated so that a super-block appears on each platter of the drive. So if the first platter is lost, an alternate super-block can be retrieved. For platters other than the top one in a pack, the leading blocks created by the offsets are reclaimed for data storage.

Kept with the super-block is a summary information block. This block is not replicated, but is grouped together with the first super-block, normally in cylinder group 0. This summary block is used to record changes that take place as the file system is used, and lists the number of inodes, directories, fragments, and blocks within the file system.

Another feature of ufs is the "cylinder group map." This is a block of data found in each cylinder group that records the block usage within the cylinder. This information is kept directly following the super-block copy for that cylinder group.

To give an idea of the appearance of a typical ufs file system, the following diagram shows a series of cylinder groups in a generic ufs file system: