

Chapter 1 Hardware

Unit 1.4 How Hard Disk Works

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词汇与词组

1. **Nearly** every **desktop computer** and **server** in use today contains **one or more** hard-disk drives.

➤ **Nearly**: 几乎，将近

1) The bottle's **nearly** empty.

这瓶子差不多空了。

2) I've worked here for **nearly** two years.

我已经在这里工作了将近两年。

3) I was **nearly** asleep.

我快睡着了。

➤ **Desktop computer**: 台式电脑

➤ **Server**: 服务器

➤ **One or more**: 一个或多个

1) This means that it supports **one or more** operations.

这意味着它支持一个或多个操作。

2) Each method takes **one or more** arguments.

各方法接受一个或多个参数。

➤ **Disk drive:** 磁盘驱动器

The **disk drive** on a computer is the part that contains the disk or into which a disk can be inserted. The disk drive allows you to read information from the disk and store information on the disk.

2. Every **mainframe** and **supercomputer** is **normally** connected to hundreds of them.

➤ **Mainframe**

a mainframe or mainframe computer is a large, powerful computer which can be used by many people at the same time and which can do very large or complicated tasks. 大型主机

➤ **Supercomputer**

a powerful computer with a large amount of memory and a very fast central processing unit 巨型计算机；超级计算机

➤ **Normally:** usually; in normal circumstances 通常；正常情况下

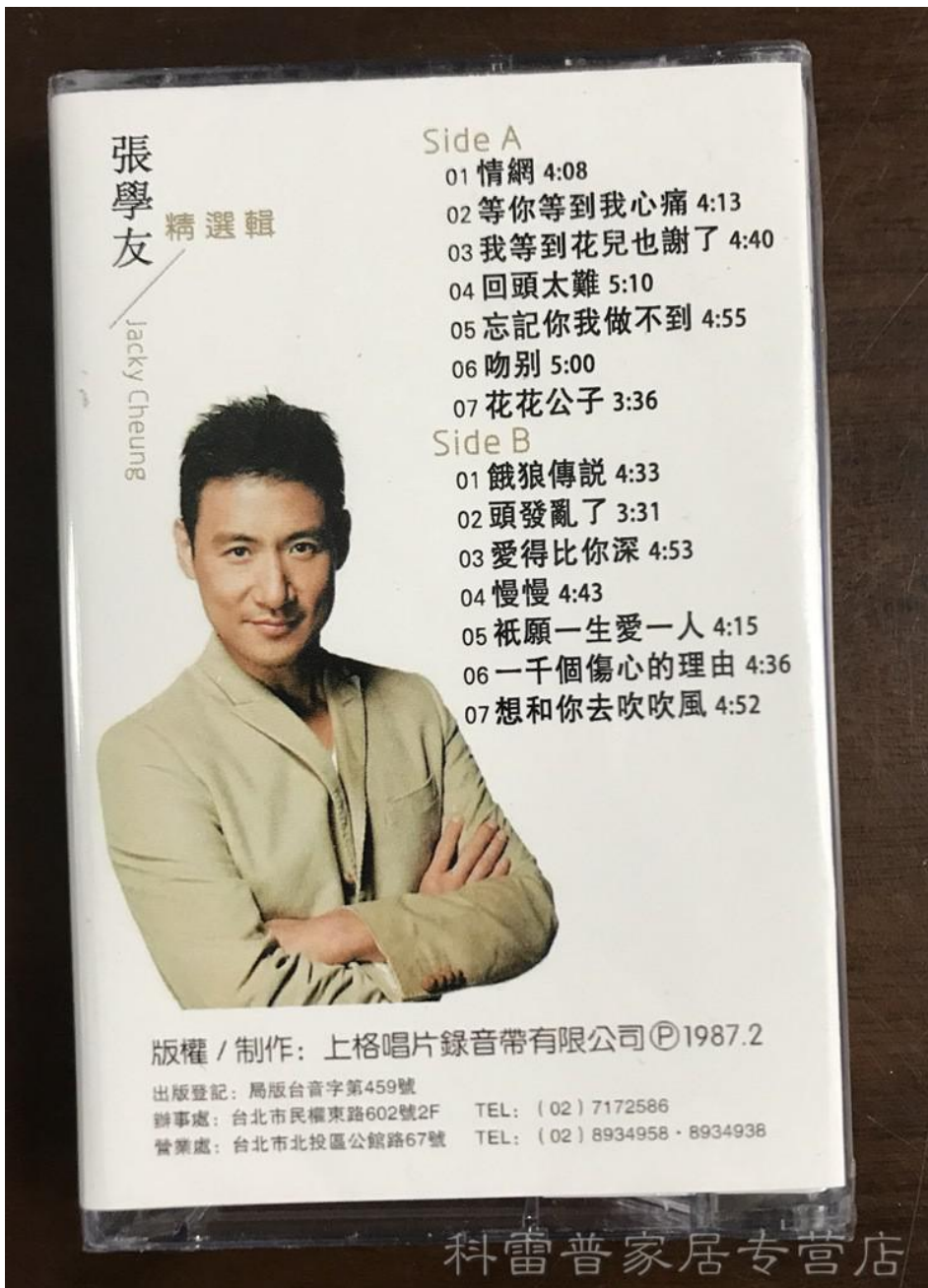
➤ them 指什么？

3. You can even find **VCR-type** devices and **camcorders** that use hard disks instead of **tape**.

➤ **VCR (video cassette recorder):** a machine you use to record television programmes or play videotapes 录像机

➤ **Camcorder** /'kæm,kɔ: də/: 摄影机

➤ Tape: 磁带



...

总在刹那间，有一些了解
说过的话不可能会实现，就在一转眼
发现你的脸，已经陌生不会再像从前

...





National Climatic Data Center. Staff with the Tape Drives in the 1970's.

4. In this article, we'll **take apart** a hard disk so that you can see what's inside, and also discuss how they organize the **gigabytes** of information they hold in files.

➤ **Take apart:** 拆解、剖析

1) Suzy loves **taking** electronics **apart** and figuring out how to put them back together again.

苏西喜欢把电子设备拆开并搞清楚如何把它们重新组装起来。

2) The storm **took** the house **apart** overnight.

一夜之间，暴风雨把房子拆散了。

➤ **Gigabytes** 千兆字节 (GB) (2^{30})

5. They started as large disks **up to 20 inches** in **diameter** holding just a few **megabytes**.

➤ **Up to:** 多达...

➤ **Inch:** An inch is an imperial unit of length, approximately equal to 2.54 centimetres. 英制长度单位, 英寸

➤ **Diameter:** 直径

➤ **Megabytes:** one million bytes of data. 兆字节 (2^{20})

6. Hard disks have a hard **platter** that holds the **magnetic** medium, as opposed to the **flexible plastic film** found in tapes and floppies.

➤ **Platter:** a large flat plate 大盘子

➤ **Magnetic:** 有磁性的

magnet: 磁铁

superconducting magnet: 超导磁铁

➤ **As opposed to:** used to make a contrast between two things 与...截然相反

I am here on business **as opposed to** a holiday.

我在这里是办公而不是度假。

➤ **Flexible:** 灵活的; 柔韧的; 易弯曲的

➤ **Plastic:** 塑料的

➤ **Film:** 胶带

7. **At the simplest level**, a hard disk **is not that different from** a **cassette** tape.

➤ **At the simplest level** 从最简单的层面来看/说

➤ **is not that different from** 并没有多大区别

1) **He's just not that into you.**

他其实没那么喜欢你

2) **It's a beautiful restaurant, but the food wasn't that good.**

➤ **Cassette** /kə'set/ tape 盒式磁带

8. It will remember the **magnetic flux patterns** stored onto the medium for many years.

➤ **magnetic flux pattern** 磁通模式

法拉第 Michael Faraday (1791-1867)

9. The magnetic recording material on a cassette tape is **coated** onto a thin plastic **strip**.

➤ **Coat**: 外套(名词); 覆盖...的表明(动词)

➤ **Strip**: 带状物、条状物

10. In a hard disk, the magnetic recording material is **layered** onto a high-precision **aluminum** or glass disk.

➤ **Layer**: If you layer something, you arrange it in layers.

➤ **Aluminum** /ə'lu: mɪnəm/ : 铝

11. The hard-disk platter is then **polished** to mirror-style smoothness.

➤ **Polish:** 抛光，擦亮；修改，润色；（使）完美，改进

1) nail **polish** 指甲油（用作名词）

2) Would you please **polish** my article right now? （动词）
您现在把我的文章润色一下好吗？

12. With a tape, you have to **fast-forward** or **reverse** to get to any particular point on the tape.

➤ **Fast-forward:** 快进

➤ **Fast-reverse:** 快退

➤ **Forward:** 向前的（地）

The university system requires more **forward** planning.

大学体制要求更具前瞻性的规划。

➤ **Backward:** 后退，向后的（地）

This change is not **backward** compatible.

这个变更不是向后兼容的。

➤ **Reverse:** 反转；相反的

reverse engineering 逆向工程

13. On a hard disk, you can move to any point on the surface of the disk almost **instantly**.

➤ **Instantly:** 立即地；马上地；即刻地

The information was instantly available.

信息即时可得。

➤ **Immediately**

He **immediately** flung himself to the floor.

他立即扑倒在地。

➤ **Instant** 立即的；紧急的；紧迫的

instant messaging services

即时通讯服务 (IM service)

14. Cassette-tape deck 盒式磁带机



15. A hard-disk platter can **spin underneath** its head at speeds up to 3,000 inches per second (about 170 mph or 272 kph)!

➤ **Spin:** 旋转（动词或名词）

He threw it back again, putting a slight **spin** on the ball.

他把球略带旋转地又投掷了回去。

➤ **mph:** 英里/小时（miles per hour）

➤ **kph:** 公里/小时（kilometers per hour）

Convert in/s to mph

Inches per second

3000 6 decimal **Convert**

3000 in/s = 170.454545 mph

Convert in/s to kph

Inches per second

3000 5 decimal **Convert**

3000 in/s = 274.32 kph

16. A hard disk can also access any of its information in a fraction of a second.

➤ **a fraction of a second** 一转眼的工夫， 一秒钟的若干分之几， 顷刻

17. The bytes might be the **ASCII** codes for the characters of a text file, or they could be the **pixel** colors for a **GIF** image.

➤ **ASCII** /'æski/ 美国信息交换标准码 (American Standard Code for Information Interchange)

The database history is stored in an **ASCII** file.

数据库历史数据存储在一个 ASCII 文件中

➤ **Pixel** /'pɪksl/ 像素

像素是图像的基本采样单位，它不是一个确定的物理量，因为像素点的物理大小是不确定的，是一个抽象的概念。

ppi (Pixels Per Inch) 像素密度，每英寸所拥有的像素数量

dpi (Dots Per Inch) 打印分辨率，每英寸所能打印的点数

例：

✓ 照片的尺寸是 4 英寸 × 3 英寸，而打印分辨率横向和竖向都是 300dpi

✓ 则照相机采集的像素数至少为 $(300 \times 4) \times (300 \times 3) = 1080000$ 像素，约一百万像素

✓ 采集的像素数过低会降低图像的打印质量，过高也不能提升打印质量

➤ **Resolution** 分辨率

分辨率是屏幕像素的数量，一般用屏幕屏宽像素数乘以屏高像素数

➤ **GIF /dʒɪf/ graphics interchange format**

18. **Data rate** — The data rate is the number of bytes per second that the drive can deliver to the CPU.

➤ **Data rate:** 数据传输率

19. **Seek time** — The seek time is the amount of time between when the CPU requests a file and when the first byte of the file is sent to the CPU. Times between 10 and 20 **milliseconds** are common.

➤ **Seek time:** 寻道时间

➤ **Millisecond:** 毫秒 one thousandth (10^{-3}) of a second

20. Data is stored on the surface of a platter in **sectors** and **tracks**.

➤ **Sector:** 扇区

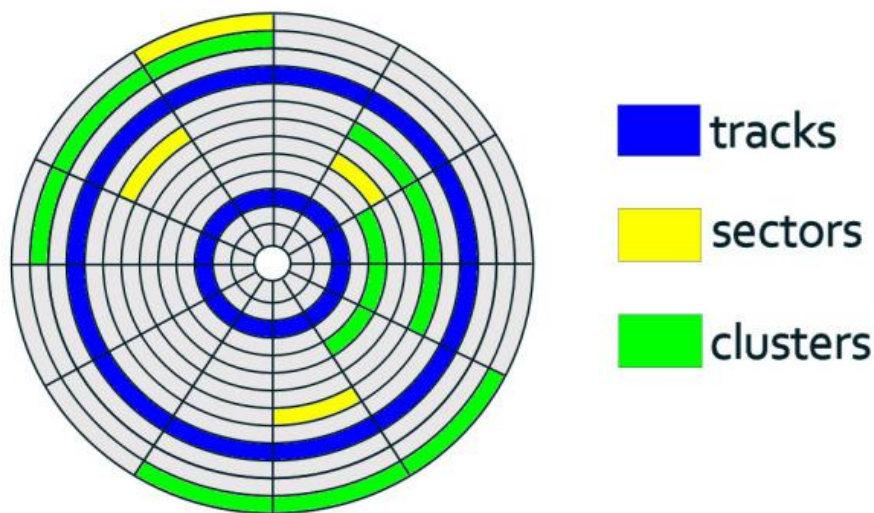
➤ **Track:** 道

21. Tracks are **concentric** circles, and sectors are pie-shaped **wedges** on a track.

➤ **Concentric:** 同轴的

➤ **Wedge[wedʒ]:** 楔 (xiē) 形物

Hard disk drive structure



- **Sector:** Smallest Addressable Unit (mostly 512 bytes)
- **Cluster:** Smallest Allocation Unit (equals to 1 or more sectors and the number of clusters depends on the file system).
- **Bad Sector**
 - 1) A bad sector refers to a single sector that has some physical flaw.
 - 2) Although a disk can operate with a bad sector, any data that was stored in that sector will be lost, further, no data can be written to that sector.
- **Lost Cluster**
 - 1) A lost cluster is a cluster that the operating system has classed as being in use, but actually contains no data.
 - 2) The ScanDisk utility within Windows is designed to search for lost clusters and make them available to the file system again.