

Glossary

cylinder

A group of tracks, one from each platter surface, that is under the read and write heads of a disk drive during one rotation. The number of surfaces within the disk device determine the number of tracks per cylinder. Usually, a disk drive has a set of arms, on which the read/write heads are mounted, that can be moved along the platter surface. All of these arms move together as a group, and the tracks under these read/write heads, as a group, are what makes up a cylinder. See also **CE cylinder** and **track**.

explanation catalog

A binary file, produced by the `gencat(1)` command, that contains the text of UNICOS error message explanations. The user accesses and displays these explanations by using the `explain(1)` command. For more information, see also the `explain(1)` man page.

fixed

As in `RECFM=F`, `F` indicates that all records, both logical and physical, in an MVS dataset are the same length.

logical device

One or more physical device slices that the operating system treats as a single device.

logical disk device

A collection of blocks on one or more physical disk or other logical disk devices.

message catalog

A binary file produced by the `gencat(1)` command that contains the text of error messages as they are called from the software at run time.

message text file

The file that contains the source form of the messages and explanations. A message text file can contain messages, formatted and unformatted explanations, and comments.

partition

(1) On Cray MPP systems, a group of processing elements (PEs) and a portion of the barrier synchronization resources that are assigned to one application. (2) A logical or physical grouping of memory and CPUs or processing elements in a computer system so that all process one application; it is a contiguous set of blocks on a logical device that holds a file system.

A partition of a logical device corresponds to a slice on a physical device. In file allocation, partitions permit the distribution of files across the physical devices underlying the logical device on which a file system is mounted. (3) A whole or partial disk unit that consists of an arbitrary number of consecutive tracks on a physical disk device. See **hardware partition** and **IOS partition**.

run level

A software configuration of the system, controlled by the contents of the `/etc/inittab` file (see the `inittab(5)` man page). The two most common run levels are **single-user mode** and **multiuser mode**.

throughput

The rate of data transfer through a computer system. Throughput is an important method of measuring the real work that a system performs; it is limited by the slowest function of the system.

Usually, **throughput** is measured as a function of data measurement from initial input into the system to the completion of output from the system. Throughput is limited (this is a basic application of von Neumann's Law) by the slowest function of the computer system.

track

The area under one read/write head on a platter surface in a disk storage unit. These platter surfaces are usually stacked on top of each other to create a disk pack. The tracks on these platters, looking vertically through the disk pack are composed of groups called **cylinders**. Typically, tracks are divided into records, which are sometimes also called **disk blocks**. The most common disk block size used in UNICOS is 512 Cray words, or 4096 bytes. See also **cylinder**.