

SuperTHIN File System User Guide

Version 2.00

For use with SuperTHIN File System versions 5.05 and above

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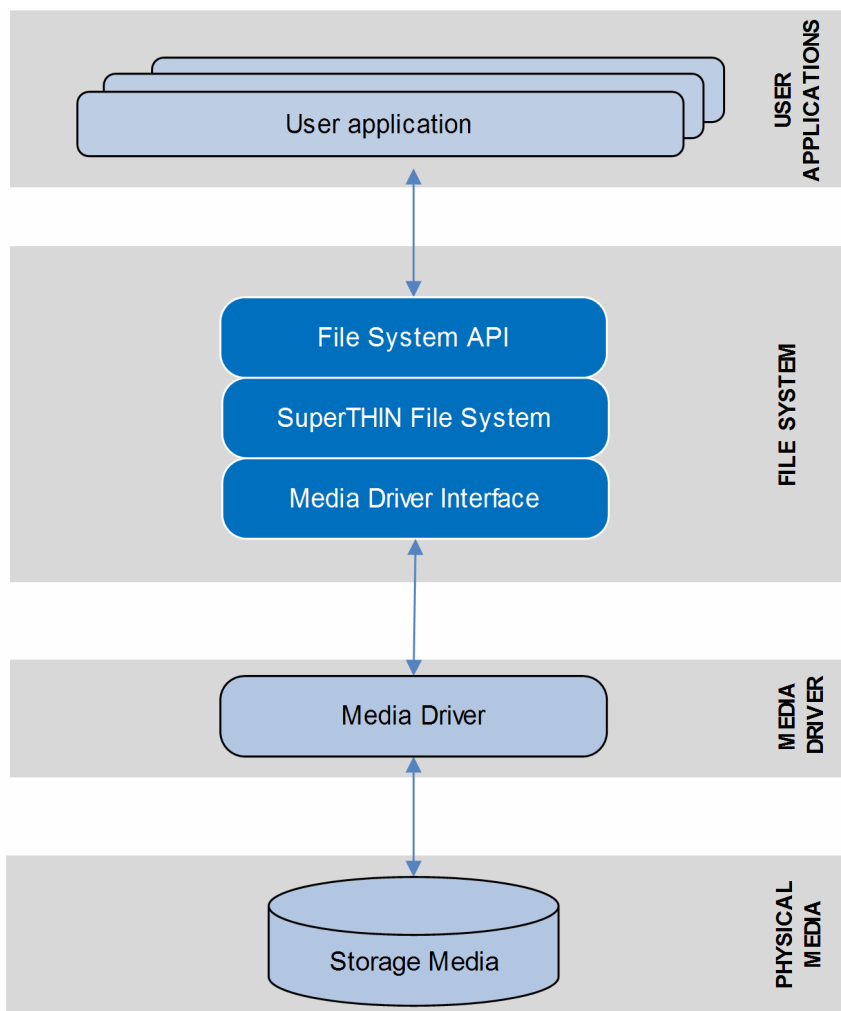
1 System Overview

1.1 Introduction

This guide is for those who want to implement a full-featured FAT file system that is optimized to use minimal ROM/RAM.

The FAT file system makes use of media drivers to access one or more storage media to execute the requested storage operation. SuperTHIN can access any combination of storage device types that conform to the *HCC Media Driver Interface Specification*.

The following diagram shows the structure of the file system software.



Note: HCC's THIN file system is always supplied with SuperTHIN. THIN has its own manual.

The benefit of SuperTHIN is that an otherwise fully functional file system can be built using an absolute minimum of RAM. If compiled for an MSP430, this has been measured below 700 bytes with no directories, and at about 800 bytes if directories are included. This is the full RAM allocation including stack and data.

Note: This figure depends on both the target and the compiler. On an 8051, for example, the RAM required for stack/overlay increases these numbers significantly.

The File System API is used to configure the interface between the SuperTHIN file system and the user application.

The SuperTHIN file system:

- Is a FAT-compatible file system designed for embedded microcontrollers with limited system resources (restrictions on the available code space or available RAM).
- Minimizes the RAM requirements. It has a code size of from 4 to 10KB and requires from 0.7 to 1.5 KB of RAM.
- Permits a full file system to be run on a low cost microcontroller with limited resources.
- Allows developers to attach PC-compatible media like SD cards or pen drives to their systems. It is compatible with media such as SD/MMC and Compact flash cards.
- Can use any single media driver that conforms to the [HCC Media Driver Interface Specification](#).
- Provides a test suite.

Note: Although every attempt has been made to simplify the system's use, you need a good understanding of the requirements of the systems you are designing in order to obtain the maximum practical benefits. HCC-Embedded offers hardware and firmware development consultancy to help developers implement a flash file system.

SuperTHIN minimizes the RAM requirements of the system but also restricts the available functionality, as follows:

- Long filenames are not available.
- Directory functions are available only if there is no open file.

1.2 Feature Check

The main features of the system are the following:

- Conforms to the HCC Advanced Embedded Framework.
- Designed for integration with both RTOS and non-RTOS based systems.
- Code size is from 4 to 10KB.
- RAM usage is from 0.7 to 1.5KB.
- ANSI 'C'.
- Reentrant.
- Test suite is provided.
- Supports zero copy.
- FAT 12/16/32-compatible.

1.3 Packages and Documents

Packages

The table below lists the packages that need to be used with this module, and also optional modules that may interact with this module, depending on your system's design:

Package	Description
hcc_base_doc	This contains the two guides that will help you get started.
fs_sthin	The SuperTHIN file system package described in this document.
fs_thin	The THIN file system package. This is supplied with SuperTHIN, although SuperTHIN does not need it.
media_drv_base	The Media Driver base package that provides the base for all media drivers that attach to the file system.
psp_template_base	The base Platform Support Package (PSP).

Additional packages

Other packages may also be provided to work with SuperTHIN. Examples include specific media drivers for particular targets, and Platform Support Package(PSP) extensions for particular targets.

Documents

For an overview of HCC file systems and guidance on choosing a file system, see [Product Information](#) on the main HCC website.

Readers should note the points in the [HCC Documentation Guidelines](#) on the HCC documentation website.

HCC Firmware Quick Start Guide

This document describes how to install packages provided by HCC in the target development environment. Also follow the *Quick Start Guide* when HCC provides package updates.

HCC Source Tree Guide

This document describes the HCC source tree. It gives an overview of the system to make clear the logic behind its organization.

HCC Media Driver Interface Specification

This document describes the media driver interface.

HCC SuperTHIN File System User Guide

This is this document.

1.4 Change History

This section describes past changes to this manual.

- To view or download earlier manuals, see [Archive: SuperTHIN File System User Guide](#).
- For the history of changes made to the package code itself, see [History: fs_sthin](#).

The current version of this manual is 2.00. The full list of versions is as follows:

Manual version	Date	Software version	Reason for change
2.00	2017-08-31	5.5	Corrected <i>Packages</i> list.
1.90	2017-06-23	5.5	New <i>Change History</i> format.
1.80	2016-04-21	5.4	Added function group descriptions to API.
1.70	2016-03-21	5.4	Various small changes.
1.60	2015-03-13	5.2	Added <i>Change History</i> section.
1.50	2014-10-24	5.2	Various small changes.
1.40	2014-08-20	5.1	Reorganized <i>System Overview</i> .
1.30	2014-05-23	5.1	First online version.

2 Source File List

This section describes all the source code files included in the system. These files follow the HCC Embedded standard source tree system, described in the [HCC Source Tree Guide](#). All references to file pathnames refer to locations within this standard source tree, not within the package you initially receive.

Note: Do not modify any files except the configuration files.

2.1 API Header Files

These files are in the directory **src/api**.

File	Description
api_sthin.h	This should be included by any application using the system. For details of the functions, see Application Programming Interface .
api_sthin_test.h	Contains the test parameters.

2.2 Configuration Files

These files in the directory **src/config** contain all the configurable parameters of the system. Configure them as required. For details of the options, see [Configuration Options](#).

File	Description
config_sthin.h	Contains the configurable system parameters.
config_sthin_test.h	Contains the configurable test parameters.

2.3 Version File

The file **src/version/ver_sthin.h** contains the version number of this module. This version number is checked by all modules that use this module to ensure system consistency over upgrades.

2.4 Test File

The test code is in the file **src/fat_sthin/test/test.c**. For details, see [Test Routines](#).

2.5 SuperTHIN File System

These files are in the directory `src/fat_sthin/common`. These files should only be modified by HCC.

File	Description
<code>dir.c</code>	Directory handling functions.
<code>dir.h</code>	Header file for short filename directory functions.
<code>drv.c</code>	Low level driver interface functions.
<code>drv.h</code>	Header file for low level driver interface functions.
<code>f_rtos.c</code>	RTOS functions.
<code>f_rtos.h</code>	Header file for RTOS functions.
<code>fat.c</code>	FAT file system general functions.
<code>fat.h</code>	Header file for FAT file system general functions.
<code>file.c</code>	File manipulation functions.
<code>file.h</code>	Header file for file manipulation functions.
<code>util.c</code>	General utility functions.
<code>util.h</code>	Header file for general utility functions.
<code>util_sfn.c</code>	General utility functions for short filenames.
<code>util_sfn.h</code>	Header file for general utility functions for short filenames.
<code>volume.c</code>	Volume manipulation functions.
<code>volume.h</code>	Header file for volume manipulation functions.

3 Configuration Options

3.1 System Options

Set the system configuration options in the file `src/config/config_sthin.h`. This section lists the available configuration options and their default values.

F_SECTOR_SIZE

The sector size of the target media, for use when formatting. The default value is 512.

RTOS_SUPPORT

Set this to 1 to enable RTOS support. The default value is 0. The OS Abstraction Layer (OAL) is only used when this is enabled.

F_MAXPATH

The maximum path length that the file system handles. The default value is 64.

The worst case value for this on a PC is 260, but in practice on embedded devices much smaller and often predictable path lengths can be relied upon. Using a smaller maximum path length reduces the RAM requirements of the system.

F_FILE_CHANGED_EVENT

Set this to 1 if you want to make a file state change an event. The default value is 0.

3.2 Options for Testing

Set the configuration options for testing in the file `src/config/config_sthin_test.h`. This section lists the available configuration options and their default values. See [Test Routines](#) for full details.

F_MAX_SEEK_TEST

The maximum size for a seek test. The default value is 16384.

The available values are: 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096, 8192, 16384, and 32768.

F_FAT_TYPE

The media type for testing. The default value is `F_FAT16_MEDIA`.

The available values are: `F_FAT12_MEDIA`, `F_FAT16_MEDIA`, and `F_FAT32_MEDIA`.

3.3 Hints and Tips for Optimization

This section outlines other ways to improve performance.

Merging files

Some compilers can perform better size optimization if all the code is contained in one file. Particularly on smaller processors, it is useful to find common pieces of code and merge them into a single call. There are two approaches to this:

- Combine all the source files in **src/fat_sthin/common** into a single file.
- Create a master file that contains just a list of the source files to include. The compiler then treats the files as a single source.

Power Consumption

To use the minimum power when accessing your flash device, it is important to minimize the number of accesses. If you can design the application so that a large file is created before use, and then you modify the file using only **f_seek()**, this ensures that there is no need to update the FAT each time a new block is appended. This can be a useful mechanism for conserving power in a data-logging application.

Safety

FAT file systems are by design not power fail-safe. If power is lost at the “wrong” moment, part or all of the file system can be lost. Normally part or all of the lost data can be recovered using PC-based disk recovery software. One method to reduce the risk of losing the whole device is to put files only in sub-directories; that is, do not use the root directory for storing files.

Note: SuperTHIN is vulnerable to corruption only when files are being written, in particular when the FAT or directory entries are being updated.

4 Drive Format

SuperTHIN handles most of the features of a FAT file system with no need for explanation of the underlying issues. However, this section describes some areas which you do need to understand.

Removable media may be formatted in three different ways:

- Completely unformatted.
- Master Boot Record.
- Boot Sector Information only.

The following sections describe how the system handles these three situations.

4.1 Completely Unformatted Media

An unformatted drive is not useable until it has been formatted. Most flash cards are pre-formatted, whereas hard disk drives tend to be unformatted when delivered. When **f_format()** is called, the drive is formatted with Boot Sector Information. This is exactly the same as if **f_hardformat()** had been issued at any time.

The format of the file medium is determined by the number of clusters on it. Information about the connected device is given to the system from the **f_getphy()** call, from which the number of available clusters on the device is calculated.

Refer to the **f_hardformat()** and **f_format()** functions for a description of how to choose the format type (FAT12/16/32).

4.2 Master Boot Record (MBR)

As standard, the file system does not hard format a card with an MBR but with Boot Sector Information. A hard format will remove the MBR information.

When a device with an MBR is inserted, it is treated as if it has just one partition (the first in the partition table).

4.3 Boot Sector Information

If **f_hardformat()** is called, the card is always formatted with the Boot Sector Information table in the first sector.

5 Application Programming Interface

This section describes the Application Programming Interface (API) functions. It includes all the functions that are available to an application program.

5.1 Module Management

The functions are the following:

Function	Description
fs_init()	Initializes the file system and allocates the required resources.
fs_delete()	Releases resources allocated during the initialization of the file system.

fs_init

Use this function to initialize the file system. Call it once at start-up.

Data areas for the file system to use are allocated at compile time, based on the settings for each volume in the `config_sthin.h` file.

Format

```
unsigned char fs_init ( void )
```

Arguments

Argument
None.

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void main()
{
    fs_init(); /* Initialize the file system */
    .
    .
    .
}
```

fs_delete

Use this function to release resources allocated during the initialization of the file system.

Note: All volumes must be deleted before this function is called.

Format

```
unsigned char fs_delete ( void )
```

Arguments

Argument

None.

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
F_ERR_BUSY	A volume has not been deleted and this prevented successful execution.

5.2 File System API

The functions are divided into four groups: volume management, directory management, file access, and file management.

Volume Management

The functions are the following:

Function	Description
f_initvolume()	Initializes the volume.
f_delvolume()	Frees resources associated with the volume.
f_format()	Formats the specified drive.
f_hardformat()	Formats the drive, ignoring current format information. All open files will be closed.
f_getfreespace()	Fills a structure with information about the drive space usage: total space, free space, used space, and bad (damaged) size.
f_getserial()	Gets the volume's serial number.

f_initvolume

Use this function to initialize the volume.

This works independently of the status of the hardware; that is, it does not matter whether a card is inserted or not.

Note: Call this function first to set the physical driver function to a given volume.

Format

```
unsigned char f_initvolume (  
    F_DRIVERINIT    initfunc,  
    unsigned long   driver_param )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
initfunc	The initialization function.	F_DRIVERINIT
driver_param	The driver parameter.	unsigned long

Return values

Argument	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myinitfs( void )
{
    unsigned char ret;

    /* Initialize file system */
    fs_init();

    /* Create a volume on RAM */
    ret = f_initvolume( ram_initfunc, 0 );

    if (ret != F_NO_ERROR)
    {
        printf( "Volume initialization failed!" );
    }
    else
    {
        /* Volume ready for use */
        .
        .
        .
    }
}
```

f_delvolume

Use this function to free resources associated with the volume.

This function works independently of the status of the hardware; that is, it does not matter whether a card is inserted or not.

Format

```
unsigned char f_delvolume ( void )
```

Arguments

Argument

None.

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void mydelvol( void )
{
    unsigned char ret;

    /* Initialize the drive */

    ret = f_delvolume();

    if (ret != F_NO_ERROR)
        printf( "Unable to delete volume! Error: %d\n", ret );
    .
    .
}
```

f_format

Use this function to format the specified drive.

If the media is not present, this function fails. If successful, all data on the specified volume are destroyed and any open files are closed.

Any existing [Master Boot Record](#) is unaffected by this command. The [Boot Sector Information](#) is re-created from the information provided by [f_getphy\(\)](#).

Note: The format fails if the specified format type is incompatible with the size of the physical media.

Format

```
unsigned char f_format ( unsigned char fattype )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
fattype	The type of format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F_FAT12_MEDIA for FAT12 • F_FAT16_MEDIA for FAT16 • F_FAT32_MEDIA for FAT32 	unsigned char

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myinitfs( void )
{
    unsigned char ret;
    f_initvolume();
    ret = f_format( F_FAT16_MEDIA );
    if (ret)
        printf( "Unable to format drive! Error %d", ret );
    else
        printf( "Drive formatted" );
    .
    .
}
```

f_hardformat

Use this function to format the drive, ignoring current format information. All open files will be closed.

This destroys any existing [Master Boot Record](#) or [Boot Sector Information](#). The new drive is formatted without a master boot record. The new drive starts with boot sector information created from the information retrieved from the [f_getphy\(\)](#) routine, and uses the whole available physical space for the volume. All data on the drive are destroyed.

Note: The format fails if the specified format type is incompatible with the size of the physical media.

Format

```
unsigned char f_hardformat ( unsigned char fattype )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
fattype	The type of format: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F_FAT12_MEDIA for FAT12 • F_FAT16_MEDIA for FAT16 • F_FAT32_MEDIA for FAT32 	unsigned char

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myinitfs( void )
{
    unsigned char ret;
    f_initvolume();
    ret = f_hardformat( F_FAT16_MEDIA );
    if (ret)
        printf( "Format error: %d", ret );
    else
        printf( "Drive formatted" );
    .
    .
}
```

f_getfreespace

Use this function to fill a structure with information about the drive space usage: total space, free space, used space, and bad (damaged) size.

Note:

- If a drive is greater than 4GB, also read the high elements of the returned structure (for example, pspace.total_high) to get the upper 32 bits of each number.
- The first call to this function after a drive is mounted may take some time, depending on the size and format of the medium being used. After the initial call, changes to the volume are counted; the function then returns immediately with the data.

Format

```
unsigned char f_getfreespace ( F_SPACE * pspace )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
pspace	A pointer to the F_SPACE structure.	F_SPACE *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void info( void )
{
    F_SPACE space;
    unsigned char ret;

    /* Get free space on current drive */
    ret = f_getfreespace( space );
    if (!ret)
    {
        printf( "There are:\n
        %d bytes total,\n
        %d bytes free,\n
        %d bytes used,\n
        %d bytes bad.",\n
        space.total, space.free, space.used, space.bad );
    }
    else
    {
        printf( "\nError %d reading drive\n", ret );
    }
}
```

f_getserial

Use this function to get the volume's serial number.

Format

```
unsigned char fn_getserial ( unsigned long * serial)
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
serial	Where to store the serial number.	unsigned long *

Return values

Return value	Description
0	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Directory Management

The functions are the following:

Function	Description
<code>f_mkdir()</code>	Creates a new directory.
<code>f_chdir()</code>	Changes the current working directory.
<code>f_rmdir()</code>	Removes a directory.
<code>f_getcwd()</code>	Gets the current working directory.

f_mkdir

Use this function to create a new directory.

Format

```
unsigned char f_mkdir ( const char * dirname )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
dirname	The name of the directory to create.	char *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myfunc( void )
{
    .
    .
    f_mkdir( "subfolder" ); /* Create directories */
    f_mkdir( "subfolder/sub1" );
    f_mkdir( "subfolder/sub2" );
    f_mkdir( "/subfolder/sub3" );
    .
    .
}
```

f_chdir

Use this function to change the current working directory.

Format

```
unsigned char f_chdir ( const char * dirname )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
dirname	The name of the target directory.	char *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myfunc( void )
{
    .
    .
    f_mkdir( "subfolder" );
    f_chdir( "subfolder" ); /* Change directory */
    f_mkdir( "sub2" );
    f_chdir( ".." ); /* Go upward */
    f_chdir( "subfolder/sub2" ); /* Go into directory sub2 */
    .
    .
}
```

f_rmdir

Use this function to remove a directory.

The function returns an error code if either of the following applies:

- The target directory is not empty.
- The directory is read-only.

Format

```
unsigned char f_rmdir ( const char * dirname )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
dirname	The name of the directory to remove.	char *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myfunc( void )
{
    .
    f_mkdir( "subfolder" ); /* Create directories */
    f_mkdir( "subfolder/sub1" );
    .
    . /* Do some work */
    .
    f_rmdir( "subfolder/sub1" ); /* Remove directories */
    f_rmdir( "subfolder" );
    .
    .
}
```


f_getcwd

Use this function to get the current working directory.

Format

```

unsigned char f_getcwd (
    char *      buffer,
    unsigned char maxlen,
    char      root )

```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
buffer	Where to store the current working directory string.	char *
maxlen	The length of the buffer.	unsigned char
root	The root.	char

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```

#define BUFFLEN 256
void myfunc( void )
{
    char buffer[BUFFLEN];
    unsigned char ret;
    ret = f_getcwd( buffer, BUFFLEN );

    if (!ret)
        printf( "Current directory is %s", buffer );
    else
        printf( "Error %d", ret )
}

```

File Access

The functions are the following:

Function	Description
f_open()	Opens a file.
f_close()	Closes a file.
f_flush()	Flushes an open file to disk.
f_read()	Reads bytes from the current file position.
f_write()	Writes data into a file at the current file position.
f_getc()	Reads a character from the current position in an open file.
f_putc()	Writes a character to an open file at the current file position.
f_eof()	Checks whether the current position in an open file is the end of file (EOF).
f_seteof()	Moves the end of file (EOF) to the current file pointer.
f_tell()	Obtains the current read/write position in an open file.
f_seek()	Moves the stream position in a file.
f_rewind()	Sets the file position in an open file to the start of the file.
f_truncate()	Opens a file for writing and truncates it to the specified length.

f_open

Use this function to open a file. The following opening modes are allowed:

Mode	Description
"r"	Open existing file for reading. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.
"r+"	Open existing file for reading and writing. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.
"w"	Truncate file to zero length or create file for writing. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.
"w+"	Open a file for reading and writing. The file is created if it does not exist; otherwise it is truncated. The stream is positioned at the beginning of the file.
"a"	Open for appending (writing to end of file). The file is created if it does not exist. The stream is positioned at the end of the file.
"a+"	Open for reading and appending (writing to end of file). The file is created if it does not exist. The stream is positioned at the end of the file.

Note the following:

- The same file can be opened multiple times in "r" mode.
- A file can only be opened once at a time in a mode which gives write access (that is, in "r+", "w", "w+", "a" or "a+" mode).
- The same file can be opened multiple times in "r" mode and at the same time once in one of the "r+", "a" or "a+" modes which give write access.
- If a file is opened in "w" or "w+" mode, a lock mechanism prevents it being opened in any other mode. This prevents opening of the file for reading and writing at the same time.

Note: There is no text mode. The system assumes that all files are in binary mode only.

Format

```
F_FILE * f_open (
    const char * filename,
    const char * mode )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filename	The file to be opened.	char *
mode	The opening mode (see above).	char *

Return values

Return value	Description
<code>F_FILE *</code>	A pointer to the associated opened file handle.
0	The file could not be opened.

Example

```
void myfunc( void )
{
    F_FILE *file;
    char c;

    file = f_open( "myfile.bin", "r" );
    if (!file)
    {
        printf( "File cannot be opened!" );
        return;
    }

    f_read( &c, 1, 1, file ); /* Read one byte */
    printf( "'%c' is read from file", c );
    f_close( file );
}
```

f_close

Use this function to close a previously opened file.

Format

```
unsigned char f_close ( F_FILE * filehandle )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filehandle	The handle of the file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myfunc( void )
{
    F_FILE *file;
    char *string = "ABC";

    file = f_open( "myfile.bin", "w" );

    if (!file)
    {
        printf( "File cannot be opened!" );
        return;
    }

    f_write( string, 3, 1, file ); /* Write 3 bytes */
    if (!f_close( file ))
    {
        printf( "File stored" );
    }
    else
    {
        printf ( "File close error!" );
    }
}
```

f_flush

Use this function to flush an open file to disk.

This is logically equivalent to closing and then opening a file to ensure that the data changed before the flush is committed to the disk.

Format

```
unsigned char f_flush ( F_FILE * f )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	
f	The handle of the file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myfunc( void )
{
    F_FILE *file;
    char *string = "ABC";

    file = f_open( "myfile.bin", "w" );
    if (!file)
    {
        printf( "File cannot be opened!" );
        return;
    }

    f_write( string, 3, 1, file ); /* Write 3 bytes */
    f_flush( file ); /* Commit data written */
    .
    .
    .
}
```

f_read

Use this function to read bytes from the current file position. The current file pointer is increased by the number of bytes read. The file must be opened in "r", "r+", "w+", or "a+" mode.

Format

```
long f_read (
    void *    buf,
    long     size,
    long     size_t,
    F_FILE *  filehandle )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
buf	The buffer to store the data in.	void *
size	The size of the items to be read.	long
size_t	The number of items to be read.	long
filehandle	The handle of the file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
number	The number of items read successfully.

Example

```
int myreadfunc( char *filename, char *buffer, long bufsize )
{
    F_FILE *file = f_open( filename, "r" );
    long size = f_filelength( filename );

    if (!file)
    {
        printf( "%s Cannot be opened!", filename );
        return 1;
    }
    if (f_read( buffer, 1, size, file )!= size)
    {
        printf( "Different number of items read" );
    }

    f_close( file );
    return 0;
}
```

f_write

Use this function to write data into a file at the current file position. The current file position is increased by the number of bytes successfully written. The file must be opened with "w", "w+", "a+", "r+" or "a".

Format

```
long f_write (
    void *    buf,
    long      size,
    long      size_t,
    F_FILE *  filehandle)
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
buf	The buffer which contains the data.	void *
size	The size of the items to be written.	long
size_t	The number of items to be written.	long
filehandle	The handle of the file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
number	The number of items successfully written.

Example

```
void myfunc( void )
{
    F_FILE *file;
    char *string = "ABC";

    file = f_open( "myfile.bin", "w" );
    if (!file)
    {
        printf( "File cannot be opened!" );
        return;
    }
    if (f_write( string, 1, 3, file ) != 3) /* Write 3 items */
    {
        printf( "Different number of items written" );
    }

    f_close( file );
}
```


f_getc

Use this function to read a character from the current position in the specified open file.

Format

```
int f_getc ( F_FILE * filehandle )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filehandle	The handle of the open file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
-1	Read failed. See Error Codes .
value	The character successfully read from the file.

Example

```
int myreadfunc( char *filename, char *buffer, long bufsize )
{
    F_FILE *file = f_open( filename, "r" );
    while (bufsize--)
    {
        int ch;
        if ((ch = f_getc( file )) == -1)
            break;
        *buffer++ = ch;
        bufsize--;
    }

    f_close( file );
    return 0;
}
```

f_putc

Use this function to write a character to the specified open file at the current file position. The current file position is incremented.

Format

```
int f_putc (
    char      ch,
    F_FILE *  filehandle )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
ch	The character to be written.	char
filehandle	The handle of the open file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
-1	The write failed.
value	The successfully written character.

Example

```
void myfunc (char *filename, long num)
{
    F_FILE *file = f_open( filename, "w" );
    while (num--)
    {
        int ch = 'A';
        if (ch != (f_putc( ch )))
        {
            printf( "f_putc error!" );
            break;
        }
    }
    f_close( file );
    return 0;
}
```

f_eof

Use this function to check whether the current position in the specified open file is the end of file (EOF).

Format

```
unsigned char f_eof ( F_FILE * filehandle )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filehandle	The handle of the open file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
0	Not at end of file.
Else	End of file or an error. See Error Codes .

Example

```
int myreadfunc( char *filename, char *buffer, long bufsize )
{
    F_FILE *file = f_open( filename, "r" );

    while (!f_eof())
    {
        if (!bufsize) break;
        bufsize--;
        f_read( buffer++, 1, 1, file );
    }
    f_close( file );

    return 0;
}
```

f_seteof

Use this function to move the end of file (EOF) to the current file pointer.

All data after the new EOF position are lost.

Format

```
unsigned char f_seteof ( F_FILE * filehandle )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filehandle	The handle of the open file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
0	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
int mytruncatefunc( char *filename, int position )
{
    F_FILE *file = f_open( filename, "r+" );

    f_seek( file, position, SEEK_SET );

    if (f_seteof( file ))
        printf( "Truncate failed!\n" );

    f_close( file );
    return 0;
}
```

f_tell

Use this function to get the current read/write position in the specified open file.

Format

```
long f_tell ( F_FILE * filehandle )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filehandle	The handle of the file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
filepos	The current read or write file position.

Example

```
int myreadfunc( char *filename, char *buffer, long bufsize )
{
    F_FILE *file = f_open( filename, "r" );
    printf( "Current position %d", f_tell( file ) ); /* Position 0 */

    f_read( buffer, 1, 1, file ); /* Read one byte */
    printf( "Current position %d", f_tell( file ) ); /* Position 1 */

    f_read( buffer ,1, 1, file ); /* Read one byte */
    printf( "Current position %d", f_tell( file ) ); /* Position 2 */

    f_close( file );
    return 0;
}
```

f_seek

Use this function to move the stream position in the specified file. The file must be open.

Format

```

unsigned char f_seek (
    F_FILE *      filehandle,
    long          offset,
    unsigned char whence )

```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filehandle	The handle of the file.	F_FILE *
offset	The relative byte position according to <i>whence</i> .	long
whence	Where to calculate <i>offset</i> from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • F_SEEK_CUR – current position of file pointer. • F_SEEK_END – end of file. • F_SEEK_SET – beginning of file. 	unsigned char

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```

int myreadfunc( char *filename, char *buffer, long bufsize )
{
    F_FILE *file = f_open( filename, "r" );
    f_read( buffer, 1, 1, file ); /* Read one byte */

    f_seek( file, 0, SEEK_SET );
    f_read( buffer, 1, 1, file ); /* Read the same byte*/

    f_seek( file, -1, SEEK_END );
    f_read( buffer, 1, 1, file ); /* Read the last byte */

    f_close( file );
    return 0;
}

```

f_rewind

Use this function to set the file position in the specified open file to the start of the file.

Format

```
unsigned char f_rewind ( F_FILE * filehandle )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filehandle	The handle of the file.	F_FILE *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myfunc( void )
{
    char buffer[4];
    char buffer2[4];

    F_FILE *file = f_open( "myfile.bin", "r" );
    if (file)
    {
        f_read( buffer, 4, 1, file );
        f_rewind( file );          /* Rewind file pointer */
        f_read( buffer2, 4, 1, file ); /* Read from beginning */
        f_close( file );
    }
    return 0;
}
```

f_truncate

Use this function to open a file for writing and truncate it to the specified length.

If the length is greater than the length of the existing file, the file is padded with zeroes to the truncated length.

Format

```
F_FILE * f_truncate (
    const char *   filename,
    unsigned long  length )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filename	The file to be opened.	char *
length	The new length of the file.	unsigned long

Return values

Return value	Description
F_FILE *	A pointer to the associated opened file handle, or 0 if it could not be opened.

Example

```
int mytruncatefunc( char *filename, unsigned long length )
{
    F_FILE *file = f_truncate( filename, length );

    if (!file)
    {
        printf( "File opening error!" );
    }
    else
    {
        printf( "File %s truncated to %d bytes", filename, length );
        f_close( file );
    }

    return 0;
}
```


File Management

The functions are the following:

Function	Description
f_delete()	Deletes a file.
f_findfirst()	Finds the first file or subdirectory in a specified directory.
f_findnext()	Finds the next file or subdirectory in a specified directory after a previous call to f_findfirst() or f_findnext() .
f_rename()	Renames a file or directory.

f_delete

Use this function to delete a file.

Note: A read-only or open file cannot be deleted.

Format

```
unsigned char f_delete ( const char * filename )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filename	A null-terminated string with the name of the file, with or without its path.	char *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myfunc(void)
{
    .
    .
    f_delete( "oldfile.txt" );
    f_delete( "A:/subdir/oldfile.txt" );
    .
    .
}
```

f_findfirst

Use this function to find the first file or subdirectory in a specified directory.

First call **f_findfirst()** and then, if the file is found, get the next file with **f_findnext()**. Files with the system attribute set are ignored.

Note: If this function is called with "*" and it is not the root directory, then:

- the first entry found will be ".", the current directory.
- the second entry is "..", the parent directory.

Format

```
unsigned char f_findfirst (
    const char *   filename,
    F_FIND *       find )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filename	The name of the file or subdirectory to find.	char *
find	Where to store the file information.	F_FIND *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void mydir( void )
{
    F_FIND find;
    if (!f_findfirst( "A:/subdir/*.*", &find ))
    {
        do
        {
            printf( "filename:%s", find.filename );
            if (find.attr&F_ATTR_DIR)
            {
                printf( " directory\n" );
            }
            else
            {
                printf( " size %d\n", find.filesize );
            }
        } while (!f_findnext( &find ));
    }
}
```

f_findnext

Use this function to find the next file or subdirectory in a specified directory after a previous call to **f_findfirst()** or **f_findnext()**.

First call **f_findfirst()** and then, if a file is found, get the rest of the matching files by repeated calls to **f_findnext()**. Files with the system attribute set are ignored.

Note: If this function is called with "*" and it is not the root directory, the first file found will be "..", the parent directory.

Format

```
unsigned char f_findnext ( F_FIND * find )
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
find	Find information (created by calling f_findfirst()).	F_FIND *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void mydir( void )
{
    F_FIND find;
    if (!f_findfirst( "/subdir/*.*", &find ))
    {
        do
        {
            printf( "filename:%s", find.filename );
            if (find.attr&F_ATTR_DIR)
            {
                printf( " directory\n" );
            }
            else
            {
                printf( " size %d\n", find.filesize );
            }
        }
        while (!f_findnext( &find ));
    }
}
```

f_rename

Use this function to rename a file or directory.

Note: The file or directory must not be read-only. If it is a file, it must not be open.

Format

```
unsigned char f_rename (
    const char *   filename,
    const char *   newname)
```

Arguments

Argument	Description	Type
filename	The current file or directory name, with or without its path.	char *
newname	The new name of the file or directory, without its path.	char *

Return values

Return value	Description
F_NO_ERROR	Successful execution.
Else	See Error Codes .

Example

```
void myfunc( void )
{
    .
    .
    f_rename( "oldfile.txt", "newfile.txt" );
    f_rename( "A:/subdir/oldfile.txt", "newfile.txt" );
    .
    .
}
```

5.3 Types and Definitions

F_FILE: File Handle

The file handle, used as a reference for accessing files.

The handle is obtained when a file is opened and released when it is closed.

F_FIND

The *F_FIND* structure takes this form:

Element	Type	Description
filename[F_MAXPATH]	char	File name + extension.
name[F_MAXNAME]	char	File name.
ext[F_MAXEXT]	char	File extension.
attr	unsigned char	File attribute.
ctime	unsigned short	Creation time.
cdate	unsigned short	Creation date.
cluster	unsigned long	For internal use only.
filesize	long	Length of the file.
findfsname	F_NAME	For internal use only.
pos	F_POS	For internal use only.

Note: The F_NAME and F_POS structures are for file system internal use only.

File Attribute Settings

The following possible file attribute settings are defined by the FAT file system:

Attribute Bit Definition	Description
F_ATTR_ARC	Archive.
F_ATTR_DIR	Directory.
F_ATTR_VOLUME	Volume.
F_ATTR_SYSTEM	System.
F_ATTR_HIDDEN	Hidden.
F_ATTR_READONLY	Read-only.

F_SPACE

The *F_SPACE* structure takes this form:

Element	Type	Description
total	unsigned long	The total size in bytes of the disk.
free	unsigned long	The number of free bytes on the disk.
used	unsigned long	The number of used bytes on the disk.
bad	unsigned long	The number of bad bytes on the disk.
total_high	unsigned long	The high part of total.
free_high	unsigned long	The high part of free.
used_high	unsigned long	The high part of used.
bad_high	unsigned long	The high part of bad.

5.4 Error Codes

The table below lists all the error codes that may be generated by the API calls. Please note that some error codes are not used by every file system.

Error Code	Value	Meaning
F_NO_ERROR	0	No error, function was successful.
F_ERR_RESERVED_1	1	The specified drive does not exist.
F_ERR_NOTFORMATTED	2	The specified volume has not been formatted.
F_ERR_INVALIDDIR	3	The specified directory is invalid.
F_ERR_INVALIDNAME	4	The specified file name is invalid.
F_ERR_NOTFOUND	5	The file or directory could not be found.
F_ERR_DUPLICATED	6	The file or directory already exists.
F_ERR_NOMOREENTRY	7	The volume is full.
F_ERR_NOTOPEN	8	A function that requires the file to be open to access a file has been called.
F_ERR_EOF	9	End of file.
F_ERR_RESERVED_2	10	Not used.
F_ERR_NOTUSEABLE	11	Invalid parameters for f_seek() .
F_ERR_LOCKED	12	The file has already been opened for writing /appending.
F_ERR_ACCESSDENIED	13	The necessary physical read and/or write functions are not present for this volume.
F_ERR_NOTEMPTY	14	The directory to be renamed or deleted is not empty.
F_ERR_INITFUNC	15	No init function is available for a driver, or the function generates an error.
F_ERR_CARDREMOVED	16	The card has been removed.
F_ERR_ONDRIVE	17	Non-recoverable error on drive.
F_ERR_INVALIDSECTOR	18	A sector has developed an error.
F_ERR_READ	19	Error reading the volume.
F_ERR_WRITE	20	Error writing file to volume.

Error Code	Value	Meaning
F_ERR_INVALIDMEDIA	21	The media is not recognized.
F_ERR_BUSY	22	The caller could not obtain the semaphore within the expiry time.
F_ERR_WRITEPROTECT	23	The physical media is write protected.
F_ERR_INVFATTYPE	24	The type of FAT is not recognized.
F_ERR_MEDIATOOSMALL	25	Media is too small for the format type requested.
F_ERR_MEDIATOO LARGE	26	Media is too large for the format type requested.
F_ERR_NOTSUPPSECTORSIZE	27	The sector size is not supported. The only supported sector size is 512 bytes.
F_ERR_ALLOCATION	28	Memory allocation error.
F_ERR_OS	29	Only possible if RTOS_SUPPORT is enabled.

6 Integration

SuperTHIN is designed to be as open and as portable as possible. No assumptions are made about the functionality, the behavior, or even the existence, of the underlying operating system. For the system to work at its best, perform the porting outlined below. This is a straightforward task for an experienced engineer.

Note: SuperTHIN only uses the OS Abstraction Layer (OAL) when RTOS support is enabled.

6.1 Requirements

Stack Requirements

SuperTHIN functions are always called in the context of the calling thread or task. Naturally, the functions require stack space, which must be allocated in order to use file system functions. Typically calls to the file system will use <0.5KB of stack.

Real Time Requirements

The bulk of the file system is code that executes without delay. There are exceptions at the driver level, where delays in writing to the physical media and in the communication cause the system to wait on external events. The points at which this occurs are documented in the applicable driver sections. Modify the delays to meet the system requirements, either by implementing interrupt control of events, or by scheduling other parts of the system. Read the relevant driver section for details.

6.2 OS Abstraction Layer

When [RTOS support](#) is enabled, the module uses the OS Abstraction Layer (OAL) that allows it to run seamlessly with a wide variety of RTOSes, or without an RTOS.

The module uses the following OAL components:

OAL Resource	Number Required
Tasks	0
Mutexes	1
Events	0

6.3 PSP Porting

The Platform Support Package (PSP) is designed to hold all platform-specific functionality, either because it relies on specific features of a target system, or because this provides the most efficient or flexible solution for the developer. For full details of its functions and macros, see the *HCC Base Platform Support Package User Guide*.

The SuperTHIN module makes use of the following standard PSP functions:

Function	Package	Element	Description
psp_getcurrenttimedate()	psp_base	psp_rtc	Returns the current time and date. This is used for date and time-stamping files.
psp_memcpy()	psp_base	psp_string	Copies a block of memory. The result is a binary copy of the data.
psp_memset()	psp_base	psp_string	Sets the specified area of memory to the defined value.

The system does not make use of any standard PSP macros.

7 Test Routines

A set of test routines is provided for exercising the file system and ensuring that it behaves correctly. The test code is in the file `src/fat_sthin/test/test.c`.

Note: On some systems the test code may be difficult or impossible to run because of the lack of resources. Also note that the test code depends on the features of the file system which you enable.

7.1 Running Tests

To run the tests, simply call `f_dotest()` with the number of the test you want to run as the parameter, or with 0 if you want to run all the available tests.

Note the following:

- Seek tests use more RAM. Use the option `F_MAX_SEEK_TEST` in the configuration file [config_sthin_test.h](#) to limit the maximum size of the seek test to be performed. The options are: 128, 256, 512, 1024, 2048, 4096, 8192, 16384 (the default) and 32768.
- You must define the `F_FAT_TYPE` in [config_sthin_test.h](#) to specify whether the tests will be executed on a FAT12, FAT16 or FAT32 card.

7.2 Test Summary

The tests are the following:

Note: Only seek tests allowed by F_MAX_SEEK_TEST are executed.

Test	Function
0	Run all the tests
2	Directory test.
3	Find test.
5	seek 128
6	seek 256
7	seek 512
8	seek 1024
9	seek 2048
10	seek 4096
11	seek 8192
12	seek 16384
13	seek 32768
14	Open test.
15	Append test.
16	Write test.
17	Dots test.
18	rit test.