

Network operating systems

File system - The important issue in the file system is related to how a file is placed (accessed) on one system from another in a network. There are two important approaches to this problem: - special

- ① Running a file transfer program
- ② Specifying a path name

Running a special file transfer program - When connecting two or more systems together, the first issue that must be faced is how to access the file system available on some other system. To deal with this issue, user runs a special file transfer program that copies the needed remote printing and mail is also handled this way. One of the best known examples of network that primarily support file transfer and mail via special program is the Unix's uucp (user to user control program) and its network variant.

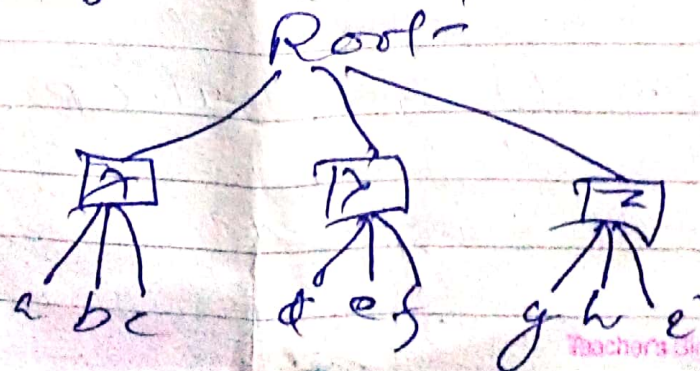
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(ii) Path name specification - The second approach in its description is that programs from one machine can open files on another machine by providing a path name telling where the file is located. For example:-

```
open ("./../machine1/pathname", READ);
```

"./.." means start at the local root directory and go upward one level (i.e. the subdirectory) and then down to the root directory of the system. In the following figure the root directory of the three systems S₁, S₂ & S₃ are shown with a subdirectory above them. To access a file from machine S₃, one could write

```
open ("../S3/X", READ);
```



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