

The topic for the next 3055 section A weekly quiz is I/O devices and busses.

Here are some sample questions from an old test:

3. (5%) What is the average time to read or write a sector on a 15,000RPM disk drive with an average seek time of 8ms, a transfer rate of 10.0 MB/sec, and 1024-byte sectors. Assume the disk is idle and there is a 0.25 ms controller overhead per sector.

$$8 \text{ ms} + \frac{0.5 \text{ RPM}}{1500 \text{ RPM} / 60 \text{ RPM/sec}} + \frac{1024 \text{ bytes}}{10 \text{ MB/sec}} + 0.25 \text{ ms} =$$

$$8 + 2 + 0.1 + 0.25 = 10.35 \text{ ms}$$

Average R/W time per sector = 10.35 (in ms)

4. (5%) Which type of bus (synchronous or asynchronous) would work best in a system where the bus length and loading did not vary? (explain).

synchronous - since loading and length are fixed it would be faster

5. (5%) The new USB 2.0 standard is a 1-bit serial bus with a 480Mhz clock. What is that bandwidth in megabytes per second?

$$\text{Bandwidth} = \frac{480 \text{ MHz}}{8 \text{ bits/byte}} = \underline{60} \text{ (in Mbytes/second)}$$