COS 318: Operating Systems Overview

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http://www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/fall10/cos318/



Logistics

- Precepts:
 - Tue: 7:30pm-8:30pm, 105 CS building
- Design review:
 - Mon 9/27: 5-9pm, 010 Friends center
- Project 1 due:
 - 10/4 at 11:59pm
- Reminder:
 - Subscribe to the cos318 mailing list!
- Team sign-up sheet



Today

- Overview of OS structure
- Overview of OS components



Hardware of A Typical Computer





Computing machinery

Analytical Engine (~1850) Charles Babbage



ENIAC (~1946) Eckert & Mauchly, UPenn



Johnniac (~1953) von Neumann, IAS



P E

A Typical Computer System





Hardware Interrupts

- Raised by external events
- Interrupt handler is in the kernel
 - Switch to another process
 - Overlap I/O with CPU
 - ...
- Eventually resume the interrupted process

















Pipeline of Creating An Executable File



- gcc can compile, assemble, and link together
- Compiler (part of gcc) compiles a program into assembly
- Assembler compiles assembly code into relocatable object file
- Linker links object files into an executable
- For more information:
 - Read man page of elf, ld, and nm
 - Read the document of ELF



Execution (Run An Application)

- On Unix, "loader" does the job
 - Read an executable file
 - Layout the code, data, heap and stack
 - Dynamically link to shared libraries
 - Prepare for the OS kernel to run the application
 - E.g., on Linux, "man Id-linux"





What's An Application?

- Four segments
 - Code/Text instructions
 - Data initialized global variables
 - Stack
 - Heap
- Why?
 - Separate code and data
 - Stack and heap go towards each other





Responsibilities

- Stack
 - Layout by compiler
 - Allocate/deallocate by process creation (fork) and termination
 - Names are relative off of stack pointer and entirely local
- 🔶 Heap
 - Linker and loader say the starting address
 - Allocate/deallocate by library calls such as malloc() and free()
 - Application program use the library calls to manage
- Global data/code
 - Compiler allocate statically
 - Compiler emit names and symbolic references
 - Linker translate references and relocate addresses
 - Loader finally lay them out in memory







OS Service Examples

Examples that are not provided at user level

- System calls: file open, close, read and write
- Control the CPU so that users won't get stuck by running
 - while (1);
- Protection:
 - Keep user programs from crashing OS
 - Keep user programs from crashing each other
- System calls are typically traps or exceptions
 - System calls are implemented in the kernel
 - When finishing the service, a system returns to the user code







Software "Onion" Layers





Processor Management

- Goals
 - Overlap between I/O and computation
 - Time sharing
 - Multiple CPU allocations
- Issues
 - Do not waste CPU resources
 - Synchronization and mutual exclusion
 - Fairness and deadlock free







Memory Management

Goals

- Support programs to run
- Allocation and management
- Transfers from and to secondary storage
- Issues
 - Efficiency & convenience
 - Fairness
 - Protection





I/O Device Management

Goals

- Interactions between devices and applications
- Ability to plug in new devices
- Issues
 - Efficiency
 - Fairness
 - Protection and sharing





File System

- Goals:
 - Manage disk blocks
 - Map between files and disk blocks
- A typical file system
 - Open a file with authentication
 - Read/write data in files
 - Close a file
- Issues
 - Reliability
 - Safety
 - Efficiency
 - Manageability





Window Systems

- Goals
 - Interacting with a user
 - Interfaces to examine and manage apps and the system
- Issues
 - Direct inputs from keyboard and mouse
 - Display output from applications and systems
 - Labor of division
 - All in the kernel (Windows)
 - All at user level
 - Split between user and kernel (Unix)





Bootstrap

- Power up a computer
- Processor reset
 - Set to known state
 - Jump to ROM code (BIOS is in ROM)
- Load in the boot loader from stable storage
- Jump to the boot loader
- Load the rest of the operating system
- Initialize and run
- Question: Can BIOS be on disk?





Ways to Develop An Operating System

- A hardware simulator
- A virtual machine
- A good kernel debugger
 - When OS crashes, always goes to the debugger
 - Debugging over the network
- Hire some smart programmers







Summary

- Interrupts
- User level vs. kernel level
- OS services
 - Processor
 - Memory
 - I/O devices
 - File system
 - Window system
- Booting the OS

