COP 4610
Operating System Principles

Overview/Introduction

Syllabus

• Instructor:
  — Christian Poellabauer (cpoellab@fiu.edu)
• Course Meetings
  — MW 12:30 – 1:45
  — PG5 Market Station 134
• TAs:
  — TBD
  — Lab: M 2-3.15; PG6 105
• Office Hours
  — Tuesday 12-1 & Thursday 11-12 or send email
  — Office hours Zoom: https://fiu.zoom.us/j/93971557757
  — Course web site, announcements
• Keep an eye on both Canvas & Website!
• As needed: slack, Teams, mailing lists, ...
Textbook

- Course Textbook (not absolutely required)

Revisions 8, 9, 10 recommended, but older versions will be fine too

Kernigan / Ritchie for C Programming is optional

Grading

- Projects 50%
- Exam 1 15%
- Exam 2 15%
- Final Exam 20%

Fixed grading scale:

- A: 90-100
- A-: 88-90
- B+: 86-88
- B: 76-86
- B-: 74-76
- C+: 72-74
- C: 62-72
- C-: 60-62
- D: 50-60
- F: < 50 OR < 40 Projects OR < 40 Exams
Projects

- Done individually
- 4-5 projects
- Multiple weeks each
- May have evaluation component
- Unix/Linux computers (more details coming)
- Collaboration/Honor Policy

Questions

1. What exactly is an operating system?
2. What services does it provide?
3. How does it provide these services?
4. Do we (really) need an operating system?
What is an Operating System?

• A program that acts as an intermediary between a user of a computer and the computer hardware

• Operating system goals
  – Execute user programs
  – Make the computer system convenient to use
  – Use the computer hardware in an efficient manner
  – Run user programs in a “safe” fashion
  – Hide complexities from user (“layer of abstraction”)

Computer System Structure

• Four components
  – Hardware — provides basic computing resources
    • CPU, memory, I/O devices
  – Operating system
    • Controls and coordinates use of hardware among various applications and users
  – Application programs
    • Word processors, compilers, web browsers, database systems, video games
  – Users
    • People, machines, other computers
What is an OS? (System View)

- **OS is a resource allocator**
  - Manages all resources
  - Decides between conflicting requests for efficient and fair resource use

- **OS is a control program**
  - Controls execution of programs to prevent errors and improper use of the computer
What is an OS? (User View)

- Users want convenience, ease of use, performance, ...
  - Don’t really care about details of how applications are executed

- Users needs may depend on type of computer:
  - Shared computer
    - Mainframes, any kind of centralized computing systems
    - “Am I getting my fair share?”
  - Dedicated computer (workstation, PC, laptop)
    - Do I get good performance? Is it easy to use?
  - Mobile devices (smartphones, etc.)
    - Do I get good performance? Will my battery last?
  - Embedded systems
    - Does it work correctly? Is it predictable? (Do we even need an OS?)

What Is “Inside” An OS?

- No universally accepted definition

- One extreme:
  - “Everything a vendor ships when you order an operating system” (everything on the CD/DVD)

- Another extreme:
  - Minimum necessary functionality (e.g., the “kernel”)
  - Kernel: the one program that runs at all times on the computer (without it, you wouldn’t have an OS)
  - Everything else is either a system program (ships with the operating system) or an application program (bought, downloaded, programmed, ...)

What Is “Inside” An OS?

• Inside kernel: “essential” parts
  – CPU scheduler, memory manager, interrupt controller, etc.

• Outside kernel: “non-essential” parts
  – File management commands, user management & access right commands, performance tools, debugging, compilers, ...

Summary

• “Glue” between hardware and “user space”
  – User space: application-level, using an OS
  – Kernel space: within the operating system

• User perspective: provide a layer of abstraction; convenience, ease-of-use, etc.

• System perspective: manage/control limited resources, efficiency, support multiple users/application

• Kernel (essential parts) + systems programs
Hardware

- A computer is a general-purpose information processing machine.
Computer is a Network

Processor

The central processing unit (CPU) is the “brains” of the computer:

- Does arithmetic, moves data around, controls the operation of everything else
- Limited set of operations; but fast (billions per second)
Memory

Random Access Memory (RAM) stores information that is in active use by the processor

- Contents can be modified by CPU
- Contents include both data and instructions
- Contents are volatile

Storage Devices

Persistent storage devices store information even when powered off:

- Magnetic disk (hard disk or hard drive)
- Solid state disks (flash memory)
Input & Output Devices

I/O devices allow the user to input data and enable the computer to provide output back to the user.

- Keyboards, mice, network cards, etc.
- Displays, printers, etc.

Computer Startup

- Bootstrap program is loaded at power-up or reboot
  - Typically stored in ROM or EPROM, generally known as firmware
  - Initializes all aspects of system
  - Loads operating system kernel and starts execution (Unix: 1st process = swapper/sched, 2nd process = init)
Boot Sequence: BIOS

1. BIOS / UEFI
   a. Usually stored in ROM
   b. Performs some basic system integrity checks
   c. Searches for device to boot or primary bootloader

BIOS: Basic Input/Output System
UEFI: Unified Extensible Firmware Interface

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Basic Input / Output System
Boot Sequence: MBR/GPT

2. MBR / GPT

This consists of a small primary bootloader program and a partition table.

- MBR: Master Boot Record
- GPT: GUID Partition Table

Boot Sequence: Bootloader

3. Bootloader

This is a second bootloader program that loads the kernel and an optional RAM disk.

Because this program is not restricted to the MBR, it can be larger and support features such as multiple filesystem support and graphical menus.

Ex: GRUB, syslinux
**Boot Sequence: Kernel**

4. **Kernel**
   - This is the operating system core and brings support for additional devices and things such as networking, raid, and encryption
   - On Linux and macOS, to see boot messages, use:
     
     ```
     $ dmesg
     ```

**Boot Sequence: Init**

5. **Init**
   - This is the first user-space application; it is in charge of configuring and managing the user-space daemons and services
   - Ex: Sysvinit, `systemd`, `runit`
CPU & I/O

• I/O devices and the CPU can execute concurrently
• Multiple things going on at once
• How?
  – Each device has its own controller ("mini CPU")
  – Each controller responsible for particular device type
  – Each controller has some local memory (buffer)
• Need way to move data
  – CPU moves data from/to main memory to/from local buffers
  – I/O is from the device to local buffer of controller
  – Device controller needs to informs CPU that it has finished its operation

Polling vs. Interrupts

• Think of a set of devices
• Polling
  – Are you done?
  – Are you done?
  – Are you done?
  – Are you done?
• Interrupt
  – I need HELP!
Common Functions of Interrupts

- **Interrupt occurs**
  - Transfer to **interrupt service routine (ISR)**
  - **Interrupt vector**
    - Addresses of the service routines
  - **Save & come back**
    - Stop our current assembly instruction
    - Come back to resume after we are done (remember where!)

- **Multiple types of interrupts**
  - **Hardware interrupts**
  - **Trap or exception** -> software-generated interrupt
  - Errors or user requests

- An operating system is **interrupt driven!**

Interrupt Handling

- The operating system preserves the state of the CPU by storing **registers** and the **program counter**
- Incoming interrupts are disabled (prevent lost interrupts)
- Which device?
  - Polling (no identity known)
  - Vectored (sends identity along)
- Separate segments of code (**ISR = interrupt service routine**) determine what action should be taken for each type of interrupt
Interrupt Timeline

Lecture Wrap Up

• Key Points
  – What is an operating system?
  – What is a kernel?
  – What is an interrupt and how does it work?