CS162
Operating Systems and Systems Programming
Lecture 4

Abstractions 2: Process Management, Files and I/O
A quick programmer's viewpoint

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Recall: OS Library API for Threads: *pthreads*

Here: the "p" is for "POSIX" which is a part of a standardized API

```
int pthread_create(pthread_t *thread, const pthread_attr_t *attr,
                   void *(*start_routine)(void*), void *arg);
```

- thread is created executing *start_routine* with *arg* as its sole argument.
- return is implicit call to pthread_exit

```
void pthread_exit(void *value_ptr);
```

- terminates the thread and makes *value_ptr* available to any successful join

```
int pthread_join(pthread_t thread, void **value_ptr);
```

- suspends execution of the calling thread until the target *thread* terminates.
- On return with a non-NULL *value_ptr* the value passed to *pthread_exit()* by the terminating thread is made available in the location referenced by *value_ptr*.

Recall: pThreads Example

- How many threads are in this program?
- What function does each thread run?
- One possible result:

```
(base) CullerMac19:code04 culler$ ./pthread 4
Main stack: 7ffee2c6b6b8, common: 10cf95048 (162)
Thread #1 stack: 70000d83bef8 common: 10cf95048 (162)
Thread #3 stack: 70000d941ef8 common: 10cf95048 (164)
Thread #2 stack: 70000d8beef8 common: 10cf95048 (165)
Thread #0 stack: 70000d7b8ef8 common: 10cf95048 (163)
```

- Does the main thread join with the threads in the same order that they were created?
  - Yes: Loop calls Join in thread order
- Do the threads exit in the same order they were created?
  - No: Depends on scheduling order!
- Would the result change if run again?
  - Yes: Depends on scheduling order!
- Is this code safe/correct???
  - No – threads share are variable that is used without locking and there is a race condition!

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <pthread.h>
#include <string.h>

int common = 162;

void *threadfun(void *threadid)
{
  long tid = (long)threadid;
  printf("Thread #%lx stack: %lx common: %lx (%d)\n", tid,
         (unsigned long) &tid, (unsigned long) &common, common++);
  pthread_exit(NULL);
}
int main (int argc, char *argv[])
{
  long t;
  int nthreads = 2;
  if (argc > 1) {
    nthreads = atoi(argv[1]);
  }
  pthread_t *threads = malloc(nthreads*sizeof(pthread_t));
  printf("Main stack: %lx, common: %lx (%d)\n",
         (unsigned long) &t,(unsigned long) &common, common);
  for(t=0; t<nthreads; t++){
    int rc = pthread_create(&threads[t], NULL, threadfun, (void *)t);
    if (rc){
      printf("ERROR; return code from pthread_create() is %d\n", rc);
      exit(-1);
    }
  }

  for(t=0; t<nthreads; t++){
    pthread_join(threads[t], NULL);
  }
  pthread_exit(NULL);          /* last thing in the main thread  */
}
```


Recall: Locks

- Locks provide two **atomic** operations:
  - Lock.Acquire() – wait until lock is free; then mark it as busy
    - » After this returns, we say the calling thread *holds* the lock
  - Lock.Release() – mark lock as free
    - » Should only be called by a thread that currently holds the lock
    - » After this returns, the calling thread no longer holds the lock
- For now, don't worry about how to implement locks!
  - We'll cover that in substantial depth later on in the class

OS Library Locks: *pthreads*

```
int pthread_mutex_init(pthread_mutex_t *mutex,
                       const pthread_mutexattr_t *attr)

int pthread_mutex_lock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);
int pthread_mutex_unlock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);
```

You'll get a chance to use these in Homework 1

Our Example: Fixing the Race Condition for increment (++)

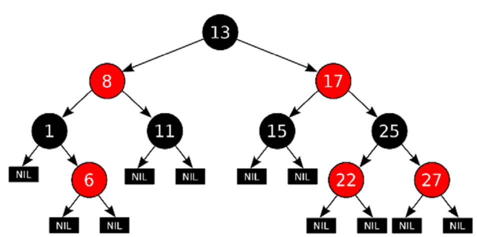
Critical section (lock, increment, unlock)

```
int common = 162;
pthread_mutex_t common_lock = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;

void *threadfun(void *threadid)
{
  long tid = (long)threadid;
  pthread_mutex_lock(&common_lock);
  int my_common = common++;
  pthread_mutex_unlock(&common_lock);

  printf("Thread #%lx stack: %lx common: %lx (%d)\n", tid,
         (unsigned long) &tid,
         (unsigned long) &common, my_common);
  pthread_exit(NULL);
}
```


Recall: Adding locking to a Red/Black tree

<u>Thread A</u>

`Insert(3)`
- `Lock.acquire()`
- `Insert 3 into the data structure`
- `Lock.release()`



Tree-Based Set Data Structure

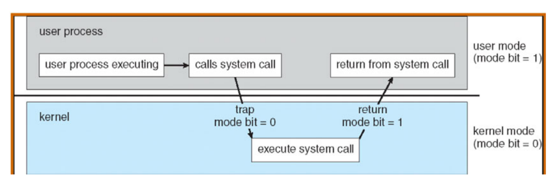
<u>Thread B</u>

`Insert(4)`
- `Lock.acquire()`
- `Insert 4 into the data structure`
- `Lock.release()`

`Get(6)`
- `Lock.acquire()`
- `Check for membership`
- `Lock.release()`

Recall: Dual Mode Operation

- Hardware provides at least two modes (at least 1 mode bit):
  1. Kernel Mode (or "supervisor" mode)
  2. User Mode
- Certain operations are prohibited when running in user mode
  - Changing the page table pointer, disabling interrupts, interacting directly w/ hardware, writing to kernel memory
- Carefully controlled transitions between user mode and kernel mode
  - System calls, interrupts, exceptions



Implementing Safe Kernel Mode Transfers

- Important aspects:
  - Controlled transfer into kernel (e.g., syscall table)
  - Separate kernel stack!
- Carefully constructed kernel code packs up the user process state and sets it aside
  - Details depend on the machine architecture
  - More on this next time
- Should be impossible for buggy or malicious user program to cause the kernel to corrupt itself!

3 types of Kernel Mode Transfer

- Syscall
  - Process requests a system service, e.g., exit
  - Like a function call, but "outside" the process
  - Does not have the address of the system function to call
  - Like a Remote Procedure Call (RPC) – for later
  - Marshall the syscall id and args in registers and exec syscall
- Interrupt
  - External asynchronous event triggers context switch
  - eg. Timer, I/O device
  - Independent of user process
- Trap or Exception
  - Internal synchronous event in process triggers context switch
  - e.g., Protection violation (segmentation fault), Divide by zero, …

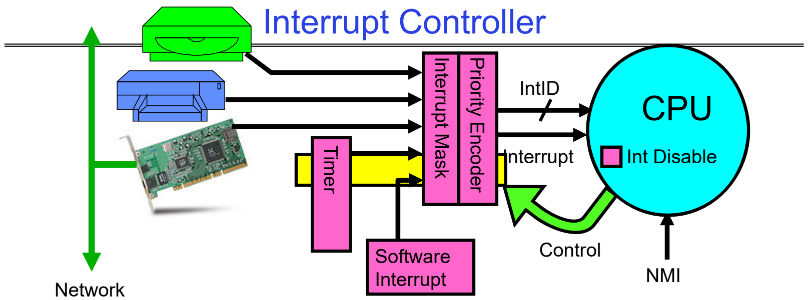
Handling System Calls safely

- Vector through well-defined syscall entry points!
  - Table mapping *system call number* to *handler*
  - Atomicly set to kernel mode at same time as jump to systemcall code in kernel
  - Separate Kernel Stack in kernel memory during syscall execution
- System call handler must never trust user and must validate everything!
- On entry: Copy arguments
  - From user memory/registers/stack into kernel memory
  - Protect kernel from malicious code evading checks
- On entry: Validate arguments
  - Protect kernel from errors in user code
  - Protect kernel from invalid values and addresses
- On exit: Copy results back
  - Into user memory

How do we take interrupts safely?

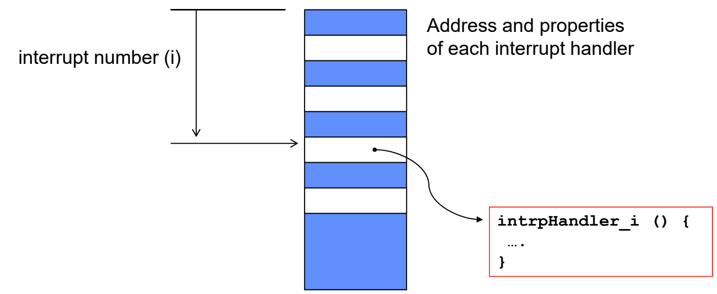
- Interrupt processing not visible to the user process:
  - Occurs between instructions, restarted transparently
  - No change to process state
  - What can be observed even with perfect interrupt processing?
- Interrupt vector
  - Limited number of entry points into kernel
- Kernel interrupt stack
  - Handler works regardless of state of user code
- Interrupt masking
  - Handler is non-blocking
- Atomic transfer of control
  - "Single instruction"-like to change:
    - » Program counter
    - » Stack pointer
    - » Memory protection
    - » Kernel/user mode
- Exceptions handled similarly, except *synchronously* (attached to particular instruction)

Interrupt Controller



- Interrupts invoked with interrupt lines from devices
- Interrupt controller chooses interrupt request to honor
  – Interrupt identity specified with ID line
  – Mask enables/disables interrupts
  – Priority encoder picks highest enabled interrupt
  – Software Interrupt Set/Cleared by Software
- CPU can disable all interrupts with internal flag
- Non-Maskable Interrupt line (NMI) can't be disabled

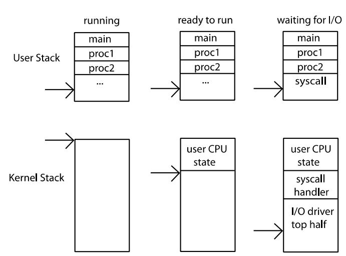
Interrupt Vector



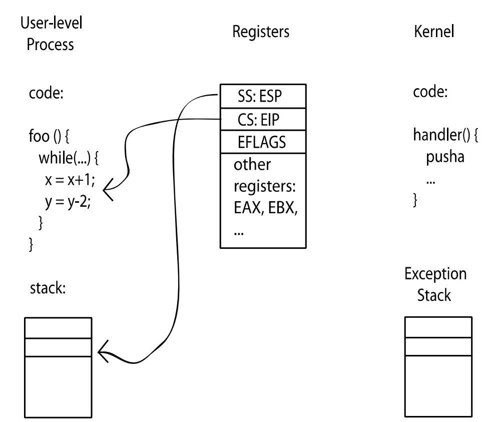
- Where else do you see this dispatch pattern?
  – System Call
  – Exceptions

Need for Separate Kernel Stacks

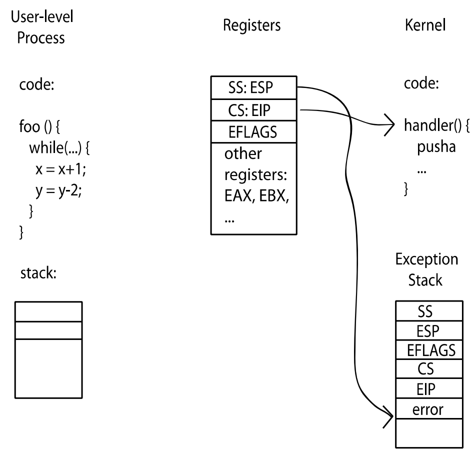
- Kernel needs space to work
- Cannot put anything on the user stack (Why?)
- Two-stack model
  – OS thread has interrupt stack (located in kernel memory) plus User stack (located in user memory)
  – Syscall handler copies user args to kernel space before invoking specific function (e.g., open)
  – Interrupts (???)



Before



During Interrupt/System Call



Administrivia

- Kubiatowicz Office Hours
  - 3pm-4pm, Tuesday/Thursday
- TOMORROW (Friday) is Drop Deadline! VERY HARD TO DROP LATER!
- Recommendation: Read assigned readings *before* lecture

- You should be going to sections – Important information covered in section
  - Any section will do until groups assigned
- Get finding groups of 4 people ASAP
  - Priority for same section; if cannot make this work, keep same TA
  - Remember: Your TA needs to see you in section!

Administrivia (Con't)

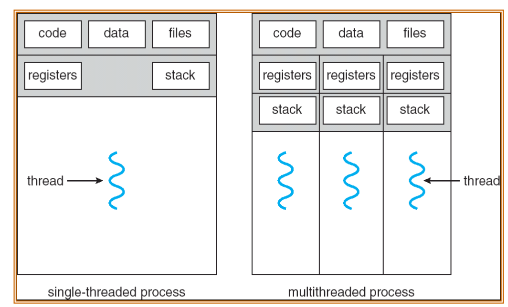
- Starting next week, we will be adhering to strict slip-day policies for non-DSP students
  - Slip days are no-questions asked (or justification needed) extensions
  - Anything beyond this requires documentation (i.e. doctor's note, etc)
  - If you run out of slip days, assignments will be discounted
    - » 10% first day, 20% second day, 40% third day, 80% fourth day
- You get 4 slip days for homework and 5 slip days for group projects
  - No project extensions on design documents, since we need to keep design reviews on track
  - Conserve your slip days!
- Midterm 1 will be on 2/15 from 8-10pm
  - No class on day of midterm (extra office hours!)
  - Closed book
  - One page of *handwritten* notes – both sides

Managing Processes

- How to manage process state?
  - How to create a process?
  - How to exit from a process?

- Remember: Everything outside of the kernel is running in a process!
  - Including the shell! (Homework 2)

- Processes are created and managed… by processes!



Bootstrapping

- If processes are created by other processes, how does the first process start?
- First process is started by the kernel
  – Often configured as an argument to the kernel *before* the kernel boots
  – Often called the "init" process
- After this, all processes on the system are created by other processes

Process Management API

- `exit` – terminate a process
- `fork` – copy the current process
- `exec` – change the *program* being run by the current process
- `wait` – wait for a process to finish
- `kill` – send a *signal* (interrupt-like notification) to another process
- `sigaction` – set handlers for signals

Process Management API

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pid.c

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
  /* get current processes PID */
  pid_t pid = getpid();
  printf("My pid: %d\n", pid);

  exit(0);
}
```

Q: What if we let main return without ever calling exit?

- The OS Library calls exit() for us!
- The entrypoint of the executable is in the OS library
- OS library calls main
- If main returns, OS library calls exit
- You'll see this in Project 0: init.c

Process Management API

- `exit` – terminate a process
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Creating Processes

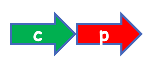
- `pid_t fork()` – copy the current process
  - New process has different pid
  - New process contains a single thread
- Return value from **`fork()`**: pid (like an integer)
  - When > 0:
    - » Running in (original) Parent process
    - » return value is pid of new child
  - When = 0:
    - » Running in new Child process
  - When < 0:
    - » Error! Must handle somehow
    - » Running in original process
- State of original process duplicated in *both* Parent and Child!
  - Address Space (Memory), File Descriptors (covered later), etc…

fork1.c

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/types.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
  pid_t cpid, mypid;
  pid_t pid = getpid();            /* get current processes PID */
  printf("Parent pid: %d\n", pid);
  cpid = fork();
  if (cpid > 0) {                  /* Parent Process */
    mypid = getpid();
    printf("[%d] parent of [%d]\n", mypid, cpid);
  } else if (cpid == 0) {          /* Child Process */
    mypid = getpid();
    printf("[%d] child\n", mypid);
  } else {
    perror("Fork failed");
  }
}
```


fork1.c




```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/types.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
  pid_t cpid, mypid;
  pid_t pid = getpid();            /* get current processes PID */
  printf("Parent pid: %d\n", pid);
  cpid = fork();
  if (cpid > 0) {                  /* Parent Process */
    mypid = getpid();
    printf("[%d] parent of [%d]\n", mypid, cpid);
  } else if (cpid == 0) {          /* Child Process */
    mypid = getpid();
    printf("[%d] child\n", mypid);
  } else {
    perror("Fork failed");
  }
}
```

fork1.c

```c
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/types.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
  pid_t cpid, mypid;
  pid_t pid = getpid();            /* get current processes PID */
  printf("Parent pid: %d\n", pid);
  cpid = fork();
  if (cpid > 0) {                  /* Parent Process */
    mypid = getpid();
    printf("[%d] parent of [%d]\n", mypid, cpid);
  } else if (cpid == 0) {          /* Child Process */
    mypid = getpid();
    printf("[%d] child\n", mypid);
  } else {
    perror("Fork failed");
  }
}
```


Mystery: fork_race.c

```c
int i;
pid_t cpid = fork();
if (cpid > 0) {
  for (i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
    printf("Parent: %d\n", i);
    // sleep(1);
  }
} else if (cpid == 0) {
  for (i = 0; i > -10; i--) {
    printf("Child: %d\n", i);
    // sleep(1);
  }
}
```

Recall: a process consists of one or more threads executing in an address space

- Here, each process has a single thread
- These threads execute concurrently

- What does this print?
- Would adding the calls to `sleep()` matter?

Process Management API

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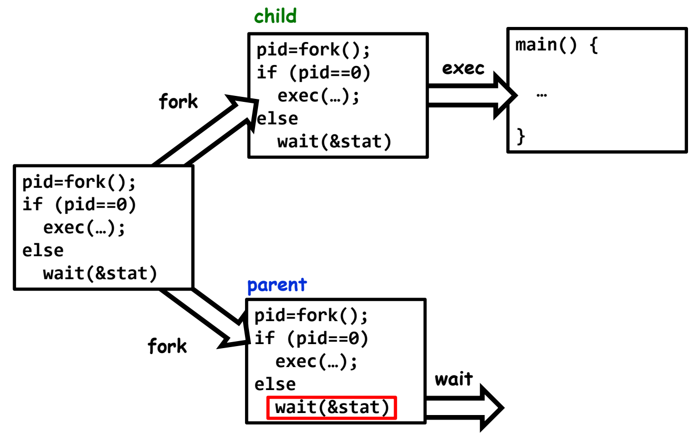
Starting new Program: variants of exec

```c
…
cpid = fork();
if (cpid > 0) {               /* Parent Process */
  tcpid = wait(&status);
} else if (cpid == 0) {      /* Child Process */
  char *args[] = {“ls”, “-l”, NULL};
  execv(“/bin/ls”, args);

  /* execv doesn’t return when it works.
     So, if we got here, it failed! */

  perror(“execv”);
  exit(1);
}
…
```

`fork2.c` – parent waits for child to finish

```
int status;
pid_t tcpid;
…
cpid = fork();
if (cpid > 0) {               /* Parent Process */
  mypid = getpid();
  printf("[%d] parent of [%d]\n", mypid, cpid);
  tcpid = wait(&status);
  printf("[%d] bye %d(%d)\n", mypid, tcpid, status);
} else if (cpid == 0) {      /* Child Process */
  mypid = getpid();
  printf("[%d] child\n", mypid);
  exit(42);
}
…
```


Process Management: The Shell pattern



Process Management API

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`inf_loop.c`

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <signal.h>

void signal_callback_handler(int signum) {
  printf("Caught signal!\n");
  exit(1);
}
int main() {
  struct sigaction sa;
  sa.sa_flags = 0;
  sigemptyset(&sa.sa_mask);
  sa.sa_handler = signal_callback_handler;
  sigaction(SIGINT, &sa, NULL);
  while (1) {}
}
```

Q: What would happen if the process receives a SIGINT signal, but does not register a signal handler?
A: The process dies!

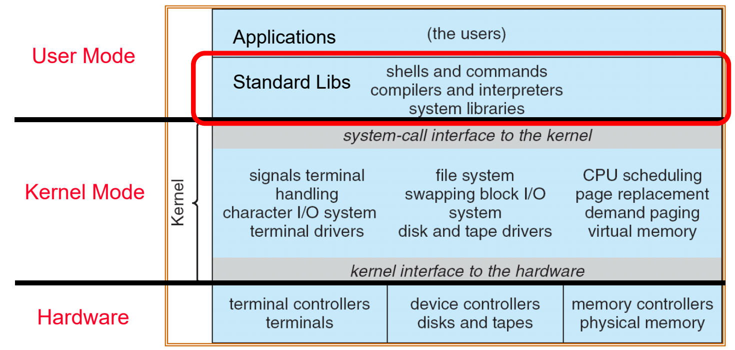
For each signal, there is a default handler defined by the system

Common POSIX Signals

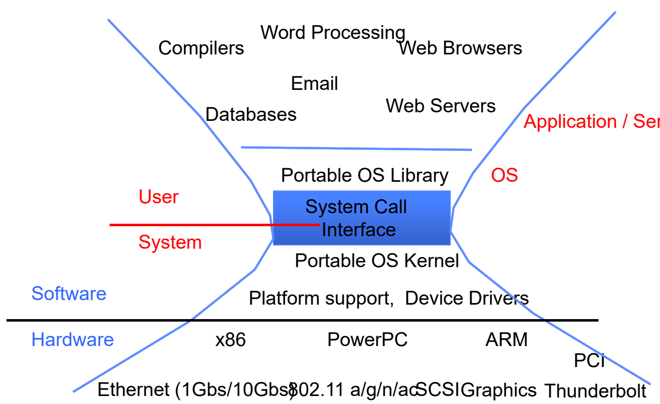
- `SIGINT` – control-C
- `SIGTERM` – default for `kill` shell command
- `SIGSTP` – control-Z (default action: stop process)

- `SIGKILL`, `SIGSTOP` – terminate/stop process
  – Can't be changed with `sigaction`
  – Why?

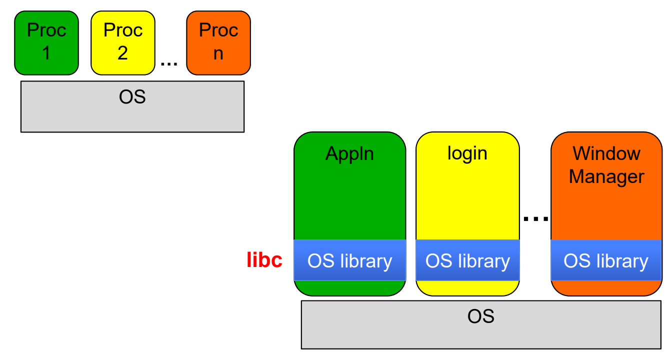
Recall: UNIX System Structure



A Kind of Narrow Waist



Recall: OS Library (libc) Issues Syscalls



- OS Library: Code linked into the user-level application that provides a clean or more functional API to the user than just the raw syscalls
  – Most of this code runs at user level, but makes syscalls (which run at kernel level)

Unix/POSIX Idea: Everything is a "File"

- Identical interface for:
  - Files on disk
  - Devices (terminals, printers, etc.)
  - Regular files on disk
  - Networking (sockets)
  - Local interprocess communication (pipes, sockets)
- Based on the system calls **`open()`**, **`read()`**, **`write()`**, and **`close()`**
- Additional: **`ioctl()`** for custom configuration that doesn't quite fit
- Note that the "Everything is a File" idea was a radical idea when proposed
  - Dennis Ritchie and Ken Thompson described this idea in their seminal paper on UNIX called "The UNIX Time-Sharing System" from 1974
  - I posted this on the resources page if you are curious

Aside: POSIX interfaces

- POSIX: Portable Operating System Interface (for uniX?)
  - Interface for application programmers (mostly)
  - Defines the term "Unix," derived from AT&T Unix
  - Created to bring order to many Unix-derived OSes, so applications are portable
    - » Partially available on non-Unix OSes, like Windows
  - Requires standard system call interface

The File System Abstraction

- File
  - Named collection of data in a file system
  - POSIX File data: sequence of bytes
    - » Could be text, binary, serialized objects, …
  - File Metadata: information about the file
    - » Size, Modification Time, Owner, Security info, Access control
- Directory
  - "Folder" containing files & directories
  - Hierachical (graphical) naming
    - » Path through the directory graph
    - » Uniquely identifies a file or directory
      - /home/ff/cs162/public_html/fa14/index.html
  - Links and Volumes (later)

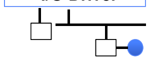
Connecting Processes, File Systems, and Users

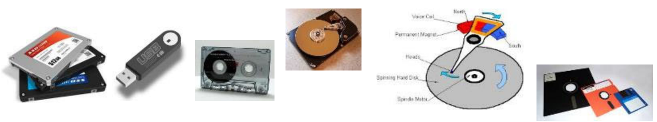
- **Every process has a *current working directory* (CWD)**
  - Can be set with system call:
    `int chdir(const char *path); //change CWD`
- Absolute paths ignore CWD
  - /home/oski/cs162
- Relative paths are relative to CWD
  - index.html, ./index.html
    - » Refers to index.html in current working directory
  - ../index.html
    - » Refers to index.html in parent of current working directory
  - ~/index.html, ~cs162/index.html
    - » Refers to index.html in the home directory

I/O and Storage Layers

Application / Service

High Level I/O	*Streams (buffered I/O)*
Low Level I/O	*File Descriptors*
Syscall	*open(), read(), write(), close(), …*
	Open File Descriptions
File System	*Files/Directories/Indexes*
I/O Driver	*Commands and Data Transfers*
	Disks, Flash, Controllers, DMA





C High-Level File API – Streams

- Operates on "streams" – unformatted sequences of bytes (wither text or binary data), with a position:

```
#include <stdio.h>
FILE *fopen( const char *filename, const char *mode );
int fclose( FILE *fp );
```

Mode Text	Binary	Descriptions
r	rb	Open existing file for reading
w	wb	Open for writing; created if does not exist
a	ab	Open for appending; created if does not exist
r+	rb+	Open existing file for reading & writing.
w+	wb+	Open for reading & writing; truncated to zero if exists, create otherwise
a+	ab+	Open for reading & writing. Created if does not exist. Read from beginning, write as append

- Open stream represented by pointer to a FILE data structure
  - Error reported by returning a NULL pointer

C API Standard Streams – `stdio.h`

- Three predefined streams are opened implicitly when the program is executed.
  - `FILE *stdin` – normal source of input, can be redirected
  - `FILE *stdout` – normal source of output, can too
  - `FILE *stderr` – diagnostics and errors
- STDIN / STDOUT enable composition in Unix
- All can be redirected
  - `cat hello.txt | grep "World!"`
  - **`cat`**'s **`stdout`** goes to **`grep`**'s **`stdin`**

C High-Level File API

```
// character oriented
int fputc( int c, FILE *fp );             // rtn c or EOF on err
int fputs( const char *s, FILE *fp );     // rtn > 0 or EOF

int fgetc( FILE * fp );
char *fgets( char *buf, int n, FILE *fp );

// block oriented
size_t fread(void *ptr, size_t size_of_elements,
             size_t number_of_elements, FILE *a_file);
size_t fwrite(const void *ptr, size_t size_of_elements,
             size_t number_of_elements, FILE *a_file);

// formatted
int fprintf(FILE *restrict stream, const char *restrict format, ...);
int fscanf(FILE *restrict stream, const char *restrict format, ... );
```

C Streams: Char-by-Char I/O

```
int main(void) {
  FILE* input = fopen(“input.txt”, “r”);
  FILE* output = fopen(“output.txt”, “w”);
  int c;

  c = fgetc(input);
  while (c != EOF) {
    fputc(output, c);
    c = fgetc(input);
  }
  fclose(input);
  fclose(output);
}
```


C High-Level File API

```
// character oriented
int fputc( int c, FILE *fp );       // rtn c or EOF on err
int fputs( const char *s, FILE *fp );      // rtn > 0 or EOF

int fgetc( FILE * fp );
char *fgets( char *buf, int n, FILE *fp );

// block oriented
size_t fread(void *ptr, size_t size_of_elements,
             size_t number_of_elements, FILE *a_file);
size_t fwrite(const void *ptr, size_t size_of_elements,
             size_t number_of_elements, FILE *a_file);

// formatted
int fprintf(FILE *restrict stream, const char *restrict format, ...);
int fscanf(FILE *restrict stream, const char *restrict format, ... );
```


C Streams: Block-by-Block I/O

```
#define BUFFER_SIZE 1024
int main(void) {
  FILE* input = fopen("input.txt", "r");
  FILE* output = fopen("output.txt", "w");
  char buffer[BUFFER_SIZE];
  size_t length;
  length = fread(buffer, sizeof(char), BUFFER_SIZE, input);
  while (length > 0) {
    fwrite(buffer, sizeof(char), length, output);
    length = fread(buffer, sizeof(char), BUFFER_SIZE, input);
  }
  fclose(input);
  fclose(output);
}
```


Aside: Check your Errors!

- Systems programmers should always be paranoid!
  – Otherwise you get intermittently buggy code
- We should really be writing things like:

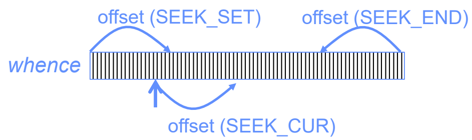
```
FILE* input = fopen(“input.txt”, “r”);
if (input == NULL) {
  // Prints our string and error msg.
  perror(“Failed to open input file”)
}
```

- Be **thorough about checking return values!**
  – Want failures to be systematically caught and dealt with
- I may be a bit loose with error checking for examples in class (to keep short)
  – Do as I say, not as I show in class!

C High-Level File API: Positioning The Pointer

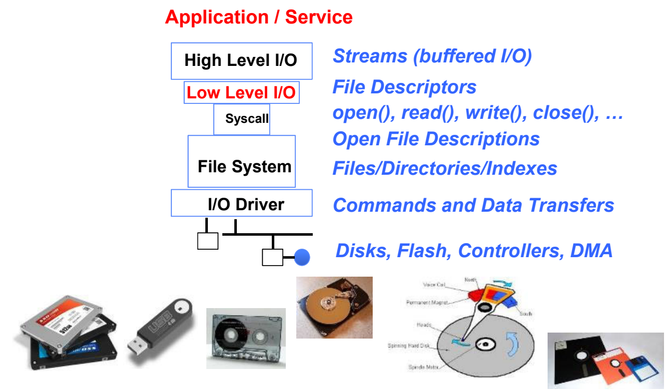
```
int fseek(FILE *stream, long int offset, int whence);
long int ftell (FILE *stream)
void rewind (FILE *stream)
```

- For `fseek()`, the `offset` is interpreted based on the `whence` argument (constants in `stdio.h`):
  - `SEEK_SET`: Then offset interpreted from beginning (position 0)
  - `SEEK_END`: Then offset interpreted backwards from end of file
  - `SEEK_CUR`: Then offset interpreted from current position



- Overall preserves high-level abstraction of a uniform stream of objects

I/O and Storage Layers



Low-Level File I/O: The RAW system-call interface

```
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/types.h>

int open (const char *filename, int flags [, mode_t mode])
int creat (const char *filename, mode_t mode)
int close (int filedes)
```

Bit vector of:
- **Access modes (Rd, Wr, …)**
- **Open Flags (Create, …)**
- **Operating modes (Appends, …)**

Bit vector of Permission Bits:
- **User|Group|Other X R|W|X**

- Integer return from `open()` is a *file descriptor*
  - *Error indicated by return < 0:* the global `errno` variable set with error (see man pages)
- Operations on *file descriptors*:
  - Open system call created an *open file description* entry in system-wide table of open files
  - *Open file description* object in the kernel represents an instance of an open file
  - Why give user an integer instead of a pointer to the file description in kernel?

C Low-Level (pre-opened) Standard Descriptors

```
#include <unistd.h>
STDIN_FILENO -  macro has value 0
STDOUT_FILENO - macro has value 1
STDERR_FILENO - macro has value 2

// Get file descriptor inside FILE *
int fileno (FILE *stream)

// Make FILE * from descriptor
FILE * fdopen (int filedes, const char *opentype)
```

Low-Level File API

- Read data from open file using file descriptor:

```
ssize_t read (int filedes, void *buffer, size_t maxsize)
```

  – Reads up to `maxsize` bytes – **might actually read less!**
  – returns bytes read, 0 => EOF, -1 => error

- Write data to open file using file descriptor

```
ssize_t write (int filedes, const void *buffer, size_t size)
```

  – returns number of bytes written

- Reposition file offset within kernel (this is independent of any position held by high-level FILE descriptor for this file!

```
off_t lseek (int filedes, off_t offset, int whence)
```


Example: `lowio.c`

```
int main() {
  char buf[1000];
  int     fd = open("lowio.c", O_RDONLY, S_IRUSR | S_IWUSR);
  ssize_t rd = read(fd, buf, sizeof(buf));
  int    err = close(fd);
  ssize_t wr = write(STDOUT_FILENO, buf, rd);
}
```

- How many bytes does this program read?

POSIX I/O: Design Patterns

- Open before use
  – Access control check, setup happens here
- Byte-oriented
  – Least common denominator
  – OS responsible for hiding the fact that real devices may not work this way (e.g. hard drive stores data in blocks)
- Explicit close

POSIX I/O: Kernel Buffering

- Reads are buffered inside kernel
  – Part of making everything byte-oriented
  – Process is **blocked** while waiting for device
  – Let other processes run while gathering result
- Writes are buffered inside kernel
  – Complete in background (more later on)
  – Return to user when data is “handed off” to kernel

- This buffering is part of global buffer management and caching for block devices (such as disks)
  – Items typically cached in quanta of disk block sizes
  – We will have many interesting things to say about this buffering when we dive into the kernel

Low-Level I/O: Other Operations

- Operations specific to terminals, devices, networking, …
  - e.g., `ioctl`
- Duplicating descriptors
  - `int dup2(int old, int new);`
  - `int dup(int old);`
- Pipes – channel
  - `int pipe(int pipefd[2]);`
  - `Writes to pipefd[1] can be read from pipefd[0]`
- File Locking
- Memory-Mapping Files
- Asynchronous I/O

Low-Level vs High-Level file API

- Low-level direct use of syscall interface: `open(), read(), write(), close()`
- Opening of file returns file descriptor:
  `int myfile = open(…);`
- File descriptor only meaningful to kernel
  - Index into process (PDB) which holds pointers to kernel-level structure ("file description") describing file.
- Every `read()` or `write()` causes syscall no matter how small (could read a single byte)
- Consider loop to get 4 bytes at a time using `read()`:
  - Each iteration enters kernel for 4 bytes.

- High-level buffered access: `fopen(), fread(), fwrite(), fclose()`
- Opening of file returns ptr to FILE:
  `FILE *myfile = fopen(…);`
- FILE structure is user space contains:
  - a chunk of memory for a buffer
  - the file descriptor for the file (`fopen()` will call `open()` automatically)
- Every `fread()` or `fwrite()` filters through buffer and may not call `read()` or `write()` on every call.
- Consider loop to get 4 bytes at a time using `fread()`:
  - First call to `fread()` calls `read()` for block of bytes (say 1024). Puts in buffer and returns first 4 to user.
  - Subsequent `fread()` grab bytes from buffer

Low-Level vs. High-Level File API

Low-Level Operation:

```
ssize_t read(…) {

    asm code … syscall # into %eax
    put args into registers %ebx, …
    special trap instruction
        Kernel:
          get args from regs
          dispatch to system func
          Do the work to read from the file
          Store return value in %eax
    get return values from regs

  Return data to caller
};
```

High-Level Operation:

```
ssize_t fread(…) {
  Check buffer for contents
  Return data to caller if available
    asm code … syscall # into %eax
    put args into registers %ebx, …
    special trap instruction
        Kernel:
          get args from regs
          dispatch to system func
          Do the work to read from the file
          Store return value in %eax
    get return values from regs
  Update buffer with excess data
  Return data to caller
};
```


High-Level vs. Low-Level File API

- Streams are buffered in user memory:
  ```
  printf("Beginning of line ");
  sleep(10); // sleep for 10 seconds
  printf("and end of line\n");
  ```
  Prints out everything at once

- Operations on file descriptors are visible immediately
  ```
  write(STDOUT_FILENO, "Beginning of line ", 18);
  sleep(10);
  write("and end of line \n", 16);
  ```
  Outputs "Beginning of line" 10 seconds earlier than "and end of line"

Conclusion

- System Call Interface is "narrow waist" between user programs and kernel
  - Must enter kernel atomically by setting PC to kernel routine at same time that CPU enters kernel mode
- Processes consist of one or more threads in an address space
  - Abstraction of the machine: execution environment for a program
  - Can use fork, exec, etc. to manage threads within a process
- We saw the role of the OS library
  - Provide API to programs
  - Interface with the OS to request services
- Streaming IO: modeled as a stream of bytes
  - Most streaming I/O functions start with "f" (like "fread")
  - Data buffered automatically by C-library function
- Low-level I/O:
  - File descriptors are integers
  - Low-level I/O supported directly at system call level