Historic evolution of Operating Systems (and computing!)

Today:
- We start our journey in exploring Operating Systems
- Try to answer questions such as:
  - What is the OS?
  - What does it need to do?
  - How/When does the OS run?
  - How do programs interact with it?
  - How is this supported by CPUs?
Some questions to get you thinking

- What is the OS? Software?

- Is the OS always executing?
  - If not, how do we make sure it gets to run?

- How do we prevent user programs from directly manipulating hardware?
Sleeping Beauty Model

- Answer: Sleeping beauty model
  - Technically known as *controlled direct execution*
  - OS runs in response to “events”; we support the switch in hardware
  - Only the OS can manipulate hardware or critical system state

- Most of the time the OS is sleeping
  - Good! Less overhead
  - Good! Applications are running directly on the hardware
What do we need from the architecture/CPU?

- Manipulating privileged machine state
  - Protected instructions
  - Manipulate device registers, TLB entries, etc.
  - Controlling access

- Generating and handling “events”
  - Interrupts, exceptions, system calls, etc.
  - Respond to external events
  - CPU requires software intervention to handle fault or trap

- Other stuff
  - Mechanisms to handle concurrency, isolation, virtualization …
Types of Arch Support

- Manipulating privileged machine state
  - Protected instructions
  - Manipulate device registers, TLB entries, etc.
  - Controlling access

- Generating and handling “events”
  - Interrupts, exceptions, system calls, etc.
  - Respond to external events
  - CPU requires software intervention to handle fault or trap

- Other stuff
  - Interrupts, atomic instructions, isolation
Protected Instructions

- OS must have exclusive access to hardware and critical data structures

- Only the operating system can
  - Directly access I/O devices (disks, printers, etc.)
    - Security, fairness (why?)
  - Manipulate memory management state
    - Page table pointers, page protection, TLB management, etc.
  - Manipulate protected control registers
    - Kernel mode, interrupt level
  - Halt instruction (why?)
Privilege mode

- Hardware restricts privileged instructions to OS

- Q: How does the HW know if the executed program is OS?
  - HW must support (at least) two execution modes: OS (kernel) mode and user mode

- Mode kept in a status bit in a protected control register
  - User programs execute in user mode
  - OS executes in kernel mode (OS == “kernel”)
  - CPU checks mode bit when protected instruction executes
  - Attempts to execute in user mode trap to OS
Switching back and forth

- Going from higher privilege to lower privilege
  - Easy: can directly modify the mode register to drop privilege

- But how do we escalate privilege?
  - Special instructions to change mode
    - System calls (int 0x80, syscall, svc)
    - Saves context and invokes designated handler
      - You jump to the privileged code; you cannot execute your own
    - OS checks your syscall request and honors it only if safe
  - Or, some kind of event happens in the system
Types of Arch Support

- Manipulating privileged machine state
  - Protected instructions
  - Manipulate device registers, TLB entries, etc.
  - Controlling access

- Generating and handling “events”
  - Interrupts, exceptions, system calls, etc.
  - Respond to external events
  - CPU requires software intervention to handle fault or trap

- Other stuff
Review: Computer Organization

![Diagram of computer organization](image)

- Program Counter
- CPU
- Instructions Fetch
- Execute
- Opcode
- Branch Address
- New PC
- Select PC
- +4
Events

- An event is an “unnatural” change in control flow
  - Events immediately stop current execution
  - Changes mode, context (machine state), or both

- The kernel defines a handler for each event type
  - Event handlers always execute in kernel mode
  - The specific types of events are defined by the machine

- Once the system is booted, OS is one big event handler
  - all entry to the kernel occurs as the result of an event
Handling events – Interrupt vector table

```c
handleTimerInterrupt() {
    ...
}

handleDivideByZero() {
    ...
}

handleSystemCall() {
    ...
}
```
Categorizing Events

- Two kinds of events: synchronous and asynchronous
- Sync events are caused by executing instructions
  - Example?
- Async events are caused by an external event
  - Example?
Categorizing Events

- Two *kinds* of events: **synchronous** and **asynchronous**
  - Sync events are caused by executing instructions
  - Async events are caused by an external event

- Two *reasons* for events: **unexpected** and **deliberate**

  - Unexpected events are, well, unexpected
    - Example?

  - Deliberate events are scheduled by OS or application
    - Why would this be useful?
Categorizing Events

- This gives us a convenient table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unexpected</th>
<th>Deliberate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Synchronous</td>
<td>fault</td>
<td>syscall trap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>interrupt</td>
<td>signal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Terms may be slightly different by OS and architecture
  - E.g., POSIX signals, asynch system traps, async or deferred procedure calls
Faults

- Hardware detects and reports “exceptional” conditions
  - Page fault, memory access violation (unaligned, permission, not mapped, bounds…), illegal instruction, divide by zero

- Upon exception, hardware “fauls” (verb)
  - Must save state (PC, regs, mode, etc.) so that the faulting process can be restarted
  - Invokes registered handler
Handling Faults

- Some faults are handled by “fixing” the exceptional condition and returning to the faulting context
  - Page faults cause the OS to place the missing page into memory
  - Fault handler resets PC of faulting context to re-execute instruction that caused the page fault
Handling Faults

- The kernel may handle unrecoverable faults by killing the user process
  - Program fault with no registered handler
  - Halt process, write process state to file, destroy process
  - In Unix, the default action for many signals (e.g., SIGSEGV)

- What about faults in the kernel?
  - Dereference NULL, divide by zero, undefined instruction
  - These faults considered fatal, operating system crashes
  - Unix panic, Windows “Blue screen of death”
    - Kernel is halted, state dumped to a core file, machine locked up
## Categorizing Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unexpected</th>
<th>Deliberate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Synchronous</td>
<td>fault</td>
<td>syscall trap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>interrupt</td>
<td>signal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
System Calls

- For a user program to do something “privileged” (e.g., I/O) it must call an OS procedure
  - Known as crossing the protection boundary, or a protected procedure call

- Hardware provides a system call instruction that:
  - Causes an exception, which invokes a kernel handler
    - Passes a parameter determining the system routine to call
  - Saves caller state (PC, regs, mode) so it can be restored
    - Why save mode?
  - Returning from system call restores this state
System Call

User mode

Kernel mode

emacs: read()

Trap to kernel mode, save state

Trap handler

Find read handler

read() kernel routine

Restore state, return to user level, resume execution
System Call Questions

- What if the kernel executes a system call?

- How to reference kernel objects as arguments or results to/from system calls?
  - A naming issue
  - Use integer object handles or descriptors
    - E.g., Unix file descriptors
    - Only meaningful as parameters to other system calls
  - Also called capabilities (more later when we do protection)
  - Why not use kernel addresses to name kernel objects?
CPU Modes/Privileges

- System call
  - Ring 3 $\rightarrow$ Ring 0
Another view

Address Space

0x00000000

0xC0000000

0xFFFFFFFF

Kernel Stack

Kernel Code

User Stack

User Code

SP1

PC1

SP2

PC2

1G

3G

0x00000000

1G

0xC0000000

0xFFFFFFFF
There are hundreds of syscalls. How do we let the kernel know which one we intend to invoke?
- Before issuing `int $0x80` or `sysenter`, set `%eax/%rax` with the syscall number

System calls are like function calls, but how to pass parameters?
- Just like calling convention in syscalls, typically passed through `%ebx, %ecx, %edx, %esi, %edi, %ebp`
More questions

- How to reference kernel objects (e.g., files, sockets)?
  - Naming problem – an integer mapped to a unique object
    - int fd = open("file"); read(fd, buffer);
  - Why can’t we reference the kernel objects by memory address?
System calls in xv6

- Look at trap.h and trap.c
  - Interrupt handlers are initialized in two arrays (idt and vectors)
    » Tvinit() function does the initialization
  - Syscalls have a single trap handler (T_SYSCALL, 64)
  - Trap() handles all exceptions, including system calls
    » If the exception is a system call, it calls syscall()

- Keep digging from there to understand how system calls are supported
  - You will be adding a new system call in Lab 1
## Categorizing Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unexpected</th>
<th>Deliberate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Synchronous</td>
<td>fault</td>
<td>syscall trap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous</td>
<td>interrupt</td>
<td>software interrupt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Interrupts signal asynchronous events**
  - I/O hardware interrupts
  - Software and hardware timers
Flavors of interrupts (cont’d)

● Two flavors of interrupts
  ◆ Precise: CPU transfers control only on instruction boundaries
  ◆ Imprecise: CPU transfers control in the middle of instruction execution
    » What does that mean?
  ◆ OS designers like precise interrupts, CPU designers like imprecise interrupts
    » Why?

● From OS perspective
  ◆ Maskable interrupt (IRQ)
    » Why does the OS want to mask an interrupt?
  ◆ Non maskable interrupt (NMI)
    » Highest priority tasks
Timer

- The key to a timesharing OS

- The fallback mechanism by which the OS reclaimed control
  - Timer is set to generate an interrupt after a period of time
    » Setting timer is a privileged instruction
    » When timer expires, generates an interrupt
      ■ Handled by the OS, forcing a switch from the user program
    » Basis for OS scheduler (*more later…*)

- Also used for time-based functions (e.g., `sleep()`)
I/O Control

- I/O issues
  - Initiating an I/O
  - Completing an I/O

- Initiating an I/O
  - Special instructions
  - Memory-mapped I/O
    - Device registers mapped into address space
    - Writing to address sends data to I/O device
I/O using Interrupts

- Interrupts are the basis for asynchronous I/O
  - OS initiates I/O
  - Device operates independently of rest of machine
  - Device sends an interrupt signal to CPU when done
  - OS maintains a vector table containing a list of addresses of kernel routines to handle various events
  - CPU looks up kernel address indexed by interrupt number, context switches to routine
I/O Example

1. Ethernet receives packet, writes packet into memory
2. Ethernet signals an interrupt
3. CPU stops current operation, switches to kernel mode, saves machine state (PC, mode, etc.) on kernel stack
4. CPU reads address from vector table indexed by interrupt number, branches to address (Ethernet device driver)
5. Ethernet device driver processes packet (reads device registers to find packet in memory)
6. Upon completion, restores saved state from stack
Interrupt Questions

- Interrupts halt the execution of a process and transfer control (execution) to the operating system
  - Can the OS be interrupted? (Consider why there might be different interrupt levels)

- Interrupts are used by devices to have the OS do stuff
  - What is an alternative approach to using interrupts?
  - What are the drawbacks of that approach?
Synchronization

- Interrupts cause difficult problems
  - An interrupt can occur at any time
  - A handler can execute that interferes with code that was interrupted

- OS must be able to synchronize concurrent execution

- Need to guarantee that short instruction sequences execute atomically
  - Disable interrupts – turn off interrupts before sequence, execute sequence, turn interrupts back on
  - Special atomic instructions – read/modify/write a memory address, test and conditionally set a bit based upon previous value
    » XCHG on x86
Memory Isolation

- OS must be able to protect programs from each other
- OS must protect itself from user programs
- OS may or may not protect user programs from itself
- Memory management unit (MMU)
  - Hardware unit provides memory protection mechanisms
  - Virtual memory
  - Segmentation
- Manipulating memory management hardware uses protected (privileged) operations
Example memory protection

Physical Memory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTR</th>
<th>DATA</th>
<th>HEAP</th>
<th>STACK</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Base    Bounds

CPU → Memory Reference

OK?

Yes → Continue

No → Exception

38
Summary

- Protection
  - User/kernel modes
  - Protected instructions

- System calls
  - Used by user-level processes to access OS functions
  - Access what is “in” the OS

- Exceptions
  - Unexpected event during execution (e.g., divide by zero)

- Interrupts
  - Timer, I/O
Next Time...

- Processes
- Project:
  - Continue to get familiar with the environment
    - In particular, Chapter 0
  - Read the system call/interrupt chapter in the xv6 book (Chapter 3)
  - If you have time, work through at least some of the booting sequence tutorial
    - Read appendix A and B in xv6 book
  - Ask questions on Piazza