Process Scheduling

CSE 410, Spring 2007
Computer Systems

http://www.cs.washington.edu/410

Readings and References

• Reading
  » Operating System Concepts
    • Chapter 6, Sections 6.1 through 6.5
    • Chapter 6, Section 6.7.2, Windows scheduling example

• Other References

Process State

• A process can be in one of several states
  » new, ready, running, waiting, terminated
• The OS keeps track of process state by maintaining a queue of PCBs for each state
• The ready queue contains PCBs of processes that are waiting to be assigned to the CPU

Windows 2000 Thread States

7 - Unknown
6 - Transition
5 - Wait (for something to complete)
4 - Terminated
3 - Standby (on-deck circle)
2 - Running (at bat)
1 - Ready (eligible to be selected)
0 - Initialized
The Scheduling Problem

• Need to share the CPU between multiple processes in the ready queue
  » OS decides which process gets the CPU next
  » Once a process is selected, OS does some work to get the process running on the CPU

How Scheduling Works

• The short-term scheduler is responsible for choosing a process from the ready queue
• The scheduling algorithm implemented by this module determines how process selection is done
• The scheduler hands the selected process off to the dispatcher which gives the process control of the CPU

Scheduling Decisions - When?

• Scheduling decisions are always made:
  » when a task is terminated
  » when a task switches from running to waiting
• Scheduling decisions are also made when an interrupt occurs in a preemptive system

Scheduling Decisions - Why?

• Maximize throughput and resource utilization
  » Need to overlap CPU and I/O activities.
• Minimize response time, waiting time and turnaround time
• Share CPU in a “fair” way
• Conflicting constraints
  » constantly need to make tradeoffs
Scheduling Decisions – How?

• Non-preemptive scheduling
  » The task decides when it stops
  » The scheduler must wait for a running task to voluntarily relinquish the CPU
  » Used in the past, now only in real-time systems
• Preemptive scheduling
  » OS can force a running task to give up control of the CPU and pick another task to run
  » Used by all major OS’s today

Non-preemptive scheduling

• Non-preemptive scheduling
  » The scheduler waits for a running task to voluntarily relinquish the CPU (task either terminates or blocks)
• Simplifies kernel
• Simplifies hardware
• But it also makes it difficult to manage the system’s performance effectively with arbitrary processes running

Preemptive scheduling

• Preemptive scheduling
  » The OS can force a running task to give up control of the CPU, allowing the scheduler to pick another task
  » OS gains control on a regular interrupt schedule
• A little more overhead
• But allows much better control of the overall system performance when running an arbitrary selection of processes

CPU and I/O Bursts

• Typical process execution pattern:
  » use the CPU for a while (CPU burst)
  » then do some I/O operations (I/O burst)
• CPU bound processes have long CPU bursts and perform I/O operations infrequently
• I/O bound processes spend most of their time doing I/O and have short CPU bursts
First Come First Served

- Scheduler selects the process at the head of the ready queue; typically non-preemptive
- Example: 3 processes arrive at the ready queue in the following order:
  P1 (CPU burst = 240 ms), P2 (CPU burst = 30 ms), P3 (CPU burst = 30 ms)

  + Simple to implement
  - Average waiting time can be large

Round Robin

- FCFS + preemptive scheduling
- Ready queue is a circular queue
- Each process gets the CPU for a time quantum (a time slice), typically 10 - 100 ms
- A task runs until it uses up its time slice or blocks

Round Robin Examples

- Short jobs don’t get stuck behind long jobs
- Average response time for jobs of same length is bad

  FCFS:

  RR:

Round Robin Pros and Cons

+ Works well for short jobs; typically used in timesharing systems
- Higher overhead due to frequent context switches
- Increases average waiting time, especially if CPU bursts are the same length and need more than one time quantum
Priority Scheduling

• Select the process with the highest priority
• Priority is based on some attribute of the process (e.g., memory requirements, owner of process, etc.)
• Starvation problem
  » low priority jobs may wait indefinitely
  » can prevent starvation by aging (increase process priority as it waits)

Priority Inversion

• Three tasks with priorities: A_HI, B_MED, C_LOW
• Suppose C_LOW locks resource that A_HI needs
  » C_LOW prevents A_HI from running
  » B_MED prevents C_LOW from running
  » A_HI can’t run until B_MED finishes and C_LOW unlocks
• This is known as priority inversion
• Solution: increase priority of a process holding a lock to the max priority of a process waiting on the lock
  » C_LOW -> C_HI until it releases the lock

Shortest Job First

• Special case of priority scheduling
  » priority = expected length of CPU burst
• Scheduler chooses the process with the shortest remaining time to completion
  » think about waiting at the copy machine
• Example: What’s the average waiting time?

Shortest Job First Pros and Cons

+ It’s the best you can do to minimize average response time
  » can prove the algorithm is optimal
- Difficult to predict the future
  » Use past behavior of the task to predict length of its next CPU burst
- Unfair-- possible starvation
  » many short jobs can stall long jobs
Multi-level Queues

- Maintain multiple ready queues based on task “type” (e.g., system, interactive, batch)
- Each task is assigned to a particular queue
  » Each queue has a priority
  » May use a different scheduling algorithm in each queue
  » There are policies implicit in these choices
- Also need to schedule between queues

Multi-level Feedback Queues

- Adaptive algorithm: task priority changes based on past behavior
- Task starts with high priority
  » because it’s probably a short job
- Decrease priority of tasks that hog the CPU (CPU-bound jobs)
- Increase priority of tasks that don’t use the CPU much (I/O-bound jobs)