

# CSE 333 – SECTION 3

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## POSIX I/O Functions

# Administrivia

- **Questions (?)**
- **HW1 Due Tonight**
- HW2 Due Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup>
- Midterm on Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>
- (And regular exercises in between)

# POSIX

- Family of standards specified by the IEEE
- Maintains compatibility across variants of Unix-like OS
- Defines API and standards for basic I/O: file, terminal and network
- Also defines a standard threading library API

# Basic File Operations

- Open the file
- Read from the file
- Write to the file
- Close the file / free up resources

# System I/O Calls

```
int open(char* filename, int flags, mode_t mode);
```

Returns an integer which is the file descriptor.

Returns -1 if there is a failure.

**filename:** A string representing the name of the file.

**flags:** An integer code describing the access.

O\_RDONLY -- opens file for read only

O\_WRONLY – opens file for write only

O\_RDWR – opens file for reading and writing

O\_APPEND --- opens the file for appending

O\_CREAT -- creates the file if it does not exist

O\_TRUNC -- overwrite the file if it exists

**mode:** File protection mode. Ignored if O\_CREAT is not specified.

# System I/O Calls

```
ssize_t read(int fd, void *buf, size_t count);  
ssize_t write(int fd, const void *buf, size_t count);
```

**fd**: file descriptor.

**buf**: address of a memory area into which the data is read.

**count**: the maximum amount of data to read from the stream.

The return value is the actual amount of data read from the file.

```
int close(int fd);
```

Returns 0 on success, -1 on failure.

```
[man 2 read]  
[man 2 write]  
[man 2 close]
```

# Errors

- When an error occurs, the error number is stored in **errno**, which is defined under `<errno.h>`
- View/Print details of the error using **perror()** and **errno**.
- POSIX functions have a variety of error codes to represent different errors. Some common error conditions:
  - **EBADF** - *fd* is not a valid file descriptor or is not open for reading.
  - **EFAULT** - *buf* is outside your accessible address space.
  - **EINTR** - The call was interrupted by a signal before any data was read.
  - **EISDIR** - *fd* refers to a directory.
- **errno** is shared by all library functions and overwritten frequently, so you must read it right after an error to be sure of getting the right code

[man 3 errno]

[man 3 perror]

# Reading a file

```
#include <errno.h>
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
...
```

```
char *buf = ...;    // buffer has size n
int bytes_left = n; // where n is the length of file in bytes
int result = 0;

while (bytes_left > 0) {
    result = read(fd, buf + (n-bytes_left), bytes_left);
    if (result == -1) {
        if (errno != EINTR) {
            // a real error happened, return an error result
        }
        // EINTR happened, do nothing and loop back around
        continue;
    }
    bytes_left -= result;
}
```

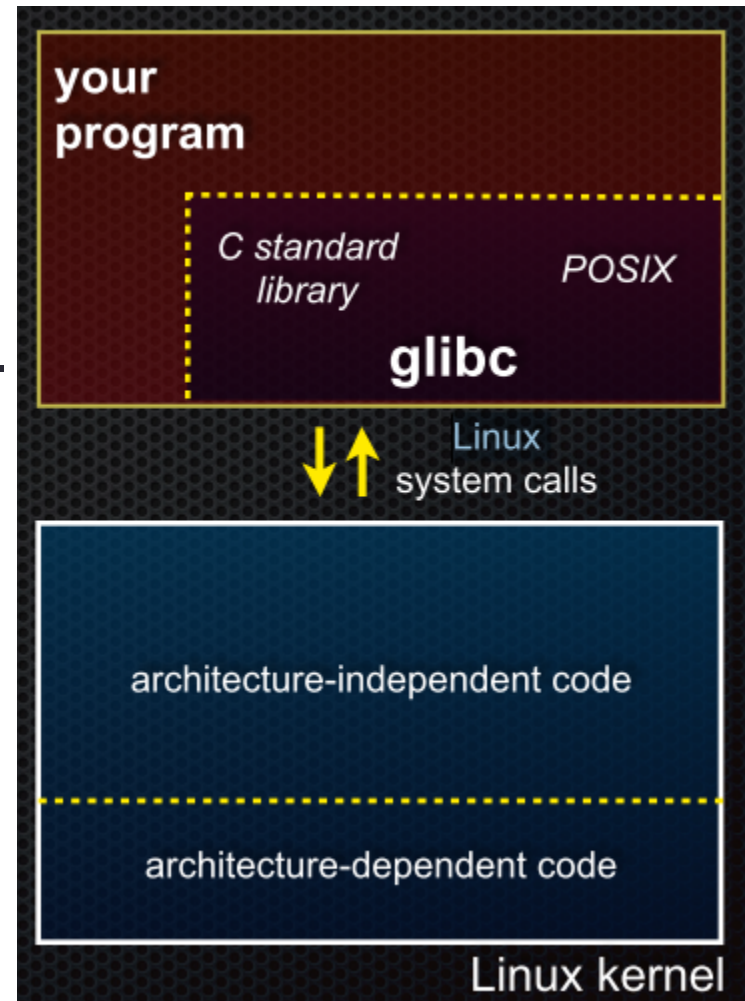


# Again, why are we learning POSIX functions?

- They are unbuffered. You can implement different buffering/caching strategies on top of read/write.
- More explicit control since read and write functions are system calls and you can directly access system resources.
- There is no standard higher level API for network and other I/O devices.

# STDIO vs. POSIX Functions

- User mode vs. Kernel mode.
- STDIO library functions
  - fopen, fread, fwrite, fclose, etc.
  - use FILE\* pointers.
- POSIX functions
  - open, read, write, close, etc.
  - use integer file descriptors.



# Directories

- Accessing directories:
  - Open a directory
  - Iterate through its contents
  - Close the directory
- Opening a directory:

**DIR** \*opendir(const char\* name);

- Opens a directory given by **name** and provides a pointer **DIR\*** to access files within the directory.
- Don't forget to close the directory when done:

**int** closedir(DIR \*dirp);

[man 0P dirent.h]

[man 3 opendir]

[man 3 closedir]

# Directories

- Reading a directory file.

```
struct dirent *readdir(DIR *dirp);
```

```
struct dirent {
    ino_t      d_ino;    /* inode number for the dir entry */
    off_t      d_off;    /* not necessarily an offset */
    unsigned short d_reclen; /* length of this record */
    unsigned char d_type;  /* type of file (not what you think);
                           not supported by all file system types */
    char        d_name[NAME_MAX+1] ; /* directory entry name */
};
```

[man 3 readdir]

[man readdir]

# Read the man pages

- **man, section 2: Linux system calls**

- `man 2 intro`
- `man 2 syscalls`
- `man 2 open`
- `man 2 read`
- ...

- **man, section 3: glibc / libc library functions**

- `man 3 intro`
- `man 3 fopen`
- `man 3 fread`
- `man 3 stdio` for a full list of functions declared in `<stdio.h>`
- ...

# Section Exercises 1 & 2

**Find a partner if you wish.**

## **1. Write a C program that given a directory:**

- Prints the names of the entries to stdout
- Analogous to the bash command **ls**

## **2. Write a C program that given a filename:**

- Prints the contents of the file to stdout
- Analogous to the bash command **cat**

**You must use POSIX functions! And handle any errors!  
:)**