Scheduling

CSE 410, Spring 2006
Computer Systems

http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/410/06sp/

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

### 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)