CSE 451: Operating Systems
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Module 20
Course Review

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Architectural Support

- Privileged instructions
  - what are they?
  - how does the CPU know whether to execute them?
  - why do they need to be privileged?
  - what do they manipulate?
- Protected memory
  - what are the various ways it can be implemented?
  - “protected addresses”
- System call
  - what are the steps in handling?
- Interrupts, exceptions, traps
  - definition of each
  - what are the steps in handling each?

OS Structure

- What are the major components of an OS?
- How are they organized?
  - what is the difference between monolithic, layered, microkernel OS's?
    - advantages and disadvantages?

Memory Management

- Mechanisms for implementing memory management
  - physical vs. virtual addressing
  - base/limit registers
  - partitioning, paging, segmentation
- Internal and external fragmentation

Paged Virtual Memory

- Virtual address space
- Page faults
- Demand paging
  - don’t try to anticipate
- Page replacement
  - local, global, hybrid
- Locality
  - temporal, spatial
- Working set
- Thrashing
- What is the complete set of steps for handling a page fault – start to finish?

Page replacement algorithms

- Belady's – optimal, but unrealizable
- FIFO – replace page loaded furthest in the past
- LRU – replace page referenced furthest in the past
  - approximate using PTE reference bit
- LRU Clock – replace page that is "old enough"
- Second chance (two-level FIFO due to lack of hardware support required for LRU clock)
- Working Set – keep the working set in memory
- Page Fault Frequency – grow/shrink number of frames as a function of fault rate

Multi-level page tables, TLBs

- How to reduce overhead of paging?
  - how do multi-level page tables work?
  - what problem does TLB solve?
  - how are they managed?
    - software vs. hardware managed
- Page faults
  - what is one? how is it used to implement demand paging?
  - what is complete sequence of steps for translating a virtual address to a PA?
    - all the way from TLB access to paging in from disk
  - cache organization and VM interaction
- MM tricks
  - shared memory? Mapped files? copy-on-write?

Processes

- What is a process? What does it virtualize?
  - differences between program, process, thread?
  - what is contained in process?
    - what does PCB contain?
    - PCB vs. address space
  - state queues?
    - which states, what transitions are possible?
    - when do transitions happen?
- Process manipulation
  - what does fork() do? how about exec()?
  - how do shells work?
- Inter-process communication (IPC)
  - “command line args,” pipes, signals, shared memory
  - shells

Threads

- What is a thread?
  - why are they useful?
  - what's the address space look like?
  - TCB vs. PCB
  - user-level vs. kernel-level threads?
    - performance implications
    - functionality implications
- How does thread scheduling differ from process scheduling?
  - what operations do threads support?
  - what happens on a thread context switch? what is saved in TCB?
  - preemptive vs. non-preemptive scheduling?
  - scheduler activations

Processor Scheduling

- Long term vs. short term
- When does scheduling happen?
  - job changes state, interrupts, exceptions, job creation
- Scheduling goals?
  - maximize CPU utilization
  - maximize job throughput
  - minimize {turnaround time | waiting time | response time}
  - batch vs. interactive: what are their goals?
- What is starvation? what causes it?
- FCFS/FIFO, SPT, SRPT, priority, RR, MLFQ, CFS (completely fair scheduler)

Synchronization

- Why do we need it?
  - data coordination? execution coordination?
  - what are race conditions? when do they occur?
  - when are resources shared? (variables, heap objects, …)

- What is mutual exclusion?
  - what is a critical section?
  - what are the requirements of critical section solutions?
    - mutex, progress, bounded waiting, performance
  - what are mechanisms for programming critical sections?
    - locks, semaphores, monitors, condition variables

Locks

- What does it mean for acquire/release to be atomic?
- how can locks be implemented?
  - spinlocks? interrupts? OS/thread-scheduler?
  - test-and-set?
  - limitations of locks?

Semaphores and Monitors

- Semaphores
  - basic operations: wait vs. signal?
  - difference between semaphore and lock?
  - when and how do threads block on semaphores? when do they wake?
  - bounded buffers problem
    - producer/consumer
  - readers/writers problem
  - how is all of this implemented
    - moving descriptors on and off queues
- Monitors
  - the operations and their implementation

Non-blocking Synchronization

- What does it mean to be “non-blocking”?
- Why might you want it?
- Compare-and-swap semantics
- “same value” problem and solution approach
- General idea of implementation of a FIFO

Deadlock

- static prevention, dynamic avoidance, detection/recovery
- tradeoffs among these
- graph reducibility
- approaches
  - Hold and wait
  - Resource ordering
  - Banker’s algorithm
  - Detect and eliminate

Disks

- Physical (spinning) disk structure
  - platters, surfaces, tracks, sectors, cylinders, arms, heads
- Disk interface
  - how does OS make requests to the disk?
- Disk performance
  - access time = seek + rotation + transfer
- Disk scheduling
  - how does it improve performance?
  - FCFS, SSTF, SCAN, C-SCAN?
- Implications of solid state drives

Files and Directories

- What is a file
  - what operations are supported?
  - what characteristics do they have?
  - what are file access methods?
- What is a directory
  - what are they used for?
  - how are they implemented?
  - what is a directory entry?
- How does path name translation work?

- ACLs vs. capabilities
  - matrix
  - advantages and disadvantages of each

File system data structures

- General strategies?
  - contiguous, linked, indexed?
  - tradeoffs?
- What is a Unix inode?
  - how are they different than directories?
  - how are inodes and directories used to do path resolution, and find files?
- Everything about the Unix File System (UFS)

FS buffer cache

- What is a buffer cache?
  - why do OS's use them?
- What are differences between caching reads and writes?
  - write-through, write-around, write-back/write-behind?
  - read-ahead?

FFS, JFS, LFS

- What is FFS, how specifically does it improve over original Unix FS?
- How about JFS, what is the key problem that it solves, what are the basic ideas?
  - Define “failure atomicity”.
- How about LFS, what are the basic ideas, when does it yield an improvement, when does it not?

RAID

- Basic concepts of RAID
  - stripe files across multiple disks to improve throughput
  - compensate for decreased reliability with parity/ECC
- Software vs. hardware implementation
- Sources of improvement among RAID-0, RAID-1, and RAID-5
- RAID vs. backup (they are different!)

Virtual Machine Monitors

- Basic concepts of VMM's
- In some detail, what is the relationship between an application, the guest OS on which it runs, the VMM, and the hardware?
  - How does control transfer appropriately?
  - How do reconcile the fact that both the apps and the guest OS's are running in user mode?
  - Be able to trace the handling of a syscall
- Binary translation
- Ways in which hardware implementations have been evolving to improve efficiency of VMMs

Projects

- You’re responsible for understanding all aspects of the projects!