CSE 120
Principles of Operating Systems
Fall 2007
Lecture 1: Course Introduction
Keith Marzullo
Lecture 1 Overview

- Class overview
- What is an operating system?
Personnel

- **Instructor**
  - Keith Marzullo
    - Office hours: W 3-4 or by appointment

- **TAs**
  - Wenjing Rao
  - Chengmo Yang
    - Office hours Tu 9-10 and Th 3-4
    - Lead sections, support and grade homeworks, projects
CSE 120 Class Overview

- Course material taught through class lectures, textbook readings, and handouts
- Course assignments are
  - Homework questions (mostly from the book)
  - Programming projects in groups
- Discussion sections are a forum for asking questions
  - Lecture material and homework
  - Additional OS topics
- Discussion board (http://webboard.ucsd.edu)
Homeworks

- There will be 4 homeworks throughout the quarter
  - Reinforce lecture material...no better practice

- Collaboration vs. cheating
  - I encourage you to discuss homework problems with others
    » You can learn a lot from each other
  - But there is a distinction between collaboration and cheating
  - Rule of thumb: Discuss together in library, walk home, and write up answers independently
  - Cheating is copying from other student’s homeworks or solution sets, searching for answers on the Web, etc.
  - Suspicious homeworks will be flagged for review
Textbook

Project

- You will develop a user-levels thread package
  - We'll tell you how to do it, but you'll have to do it yourself.
  - Programming in C
  - Debugging will be hard

- You will work in groups of 1-3 on the projects
  - Start identifying partners now
Labs

- We will use the uAPE (B230) lab in the EBU3B basement
  - Linux running on Dell x86 machines
- You can also use your home machine
  - The same project source will work on Linux (but not Windows)
  - Note: We will test and grade on uAPE machines
  - Be sure to test your projects there as well
Exams

- **Midterm**
  - Tuesday, October 30
  - Covers first half of class

- **Final**
  - Friday December 14, 11:30 am - 3:00 pm
  - Covers second half of class + selected material from first part
    - I will be explicit about the material covered

- **No makeup exams**
  - Unless dire circumstances, like medical emergencies.

- **Crib sheet**
  - You can bring one double-sided 8.5x11” page of notes to each exam to assist you in answering the questions
  - Not a substitute for thinking
Grading

- Homeworks: 20%
  - Think of these collectively as a take-home midterm
- Midterm: 25%
- Final: 30%
- Projects: 25%
How *Not To Pass* CSE 120

- Do not come to lecture
  - It’s nice out, the slides are online, and the material is in the book anyway
  - Lecture material is the basis for exams and directly relates to the projects

- Do not do the homework
  - It’s only 20% of the grade
  - Excellent practice for the exams, and some homework problems are exercises for helping with the project
  - 20% is actually a significant fraction of your grade (difference between an A and a C)
How *Not To Pass* (2)

- Do not ask questions in lecture, office hours, or email
  - It’s scary, I don’t want to embarrass myself
  - Asking questions is the best way to clarify lecture material at the time it is being presented
  - Office hours and email will help with homeworks, projects

- Wait until the last couple of days to start a project
  - We’ll have to do the crunch anyways, why do it early?
  - The projects cannot be done in the last few days
  - Repeat: The projects cannot be done in the last few days
  - Some groups last time learned that starting early meant finishing all of the projects on time…and some didn’t
Serves many roles...

- Course syllabus and schedule (updated over quarter)
  » Lecture slides
- Homework handouts
- Project handouts

Supplemental readings on Unix, monitors, and threads

- e.g., seminal research paper describing the early Unix system
- FYI only, but you might find it interesting
- Concepts in paper might seem obvious and familiar, but they were new at one time
Questions

- Before we start the material, any questions about the class structure, contents, etc.?
Why Operating Systems?

• Why are we making you sit here today, having to suffer through a core course in operating systems?
  - It’s not like everyone will become OS developers, after all

• Understand what you use
  - Understanding how an OS works helps you develop apps
  - System functionality, performance, efficiency, etc.

• Pervasive abstractions
  - Concurrency: Threads and synchronization are common modern programming abstractions (Java, .NET, etc.)

• Complex software systems
  - Many of you will go on to work on large software projects
  - OSes serve as examples of an evolution of complex systems
This course addresses classic OS concepts
- Services provided by the OS
- OS implementation on modern hardware
- Co-evolution of hardware and software
- Techniques for implementing software systems that are
  » Large and complex
  » Long-lived and evolving
  » Concurrent
  » Performance-critical

System software tends to be mysterious
- Virtual memory? Wazzat?

Our goal is to reveal all mysteries
The fundamental issues/questions in this course are:

- **Structure:** how is an operating system organized?
- **Sharing:** how are resources shared among users?
- **Naming:** how are resources named (by users and programs)?
- **Protection:** how are users/programs protected from each other?
- **Security:** how can information access/flow be restricted?
- **Communication:** how to exchange data?
- **Reliability and fault tolerance:** how to mask failures?
- **Extensibility:** how to add new features?
Fundamental OS Issues (2)

- **Concurrency:** how to control parallel activities?
- **Performance:** how to make efficient use of resources, reduce OS overhead?
- **Scale and growth:** how to handle increased demand?
- **Compatibility:** can we ever do anything new?
- **Distribution:** how to coordinate remote operations?
- **Accountability:** how to charge for/restrict use of resources?

And the principles in this course are the design methods, approaches, and solutions to these issues.
What is an Operating System?

- How would you answer?
- (Yes, I know that’s why you’re taking the course…)
- (Note: There is no one good answer)
What is an operating system?

- The operating system is the software layer between user applications and the hardware.

- The OS is “all the code that you didn’t have to write” to implement your application.
The OS and Hardware

- The OS **abstracts/controls/mediates** access to hardware resources
  - Computation (CPUs)
  - Volatile storage (memory) and persistent storage (disk, etc.)
  - Communication (network, modem, etc.)
  - Input/output devices (keyboard, display, printer, camera, etc.)

- The OS defines a set of logical resources (**objects**) and a set of well-defined operations on those objects (**interfaces**)
  - Physical resources (CPU and memory)
  - Logical resources (files, programs, names)
The OS and Hardware (2)

- Benefits to applications
  - Simpler (no tweaking device registers)
  - Device independent (all network cards look the same)
  - Portable (across Windows95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP/Vista/…)
  - Transportable (same program across different OSes (Java))
The OS and Applications

- The OS defines a logical, well-defined environment...
  - Virtual machine (each program thinks it owns the computer)
- For users and programs to safely coexist, cooperate, share resources
  - Concurrent execution of multiple programs (timeslicing)
  - Communication among multiple programs (pipes, cut & paste)
  - Shared implementations of common facilities
    » No need to implement the file system more than once
  - Mechanisms and policies to manage/share/protect resources
    » File permissions (mechanism) and groups (policies)
Other Questions to Ponder

- What is part of an OS? What is not?
  - Is the windowing system part of an OS? Java?

- Popular OSes today are Windows, Linux, and OS X
  - How different/similar do you think these OSes are?
  - How would you go about answering that question?

- Somewhat surprisingly, OSes change all of the time
  - Consider the series of releases of NT, Linux, OS X…
  - What are the drivers of OS change?
  - What are the most compelling issues facing OSes today?
Pondering Cont’d

- How many lines of code in an OS?
  - Vista (2006): 50M (XP + 10M)
    - What is largest kernel component?
  - OS X (2006): 86M

- What does this mean (for you)?
  - OSes are useful for learning about software complexity
  - OS kernel is only one component, however
    - Linux 2.6.0: 6M
    - KDE (X11): 4M
    - Browser: 2M+
  - OS is just one example of many complex software systems
    - If you become a developer, you will face complexity
For next class...

- Browse the course web
  - http://www.cse.ucsd.edu/classes/fa07/cse120/
- Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3
- Start thinking about partners for project groups
- See me if you have any questions