Preface

Operating systems are an essential part of any computer system. Similarly, a course on operating systems is an essential part of any computer science education. This field is undergoing rapid change, as computers are now prevalent in virtually every arena of day-to-day life—from embedded devices in automobiles through the most sophisticated planning tools for governments and multinational firms. Yet the fundamental concepts remain fairly clear, and it is on these that we base this book.

We wrote this book as a text for an introductory course in operating systems at the junior or senior undergraduate level or at the first-year graduate level. We hope that practitioners will also find it useful. It provides a clear description of the *concepts* that underlie operating systems. As prerequisites, we assume that the reader is familiar with basic data structures, computer organization, and a high-level language, such as C or Java. The hardware topics required for an understanding of operating systems are covered in Chapter 1. In that chapter, we also include an overview of the fundamental data structures that are prevalent in most operating systems. For code examples, we use predominantly C, with some Java, but the reader can still understand the algorithms without a thorough knowledge of these languages.

Concepts are presented using intuitive descriptions. Important theoretical results are covered, but formal proofs are largely omitted. The bibliographical notes at the end of each chapter contain pointers to research papers in which results were first presented and proved, as well as references to recent material for further reading. In place of proofs, figures and examples are used to suggest why we should expect the result in question to be true.

The fundamental concepts and algorithms covered in the book are often based on those used in both commercial and open-source operating systems. Our aim is to present these concepts and algorithms in a general setting that is not tied to one particular operating system. However, we present a large number of examples that pertain to the most popular and the most innovative operating systems, including Linux, Microsoft Windows, Apple Mac OS X, and Solaris. We also include examples of both Android and iOS, currently the two dominant mobile operating systems.

The organization of the text reflects our many years of teaching courses on operating systems, as well as curriculum guidelines published by the IEEE

Computing Society and the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). Consideration was also given to the feedback provided by the reviewers of the text, along with the many comments and suggestions we received from readers of our previous editions and from our current and former students.

Content of This Book

The text is organized in six major parts:

- **Overview**. Chapters 1 and 2 explain what operating systems are, what they do, and how they are designed and constructed. These chapters discuss what the common features of an operating system are and what an operating system does for the user. We include coverage of both traditional PC and server operating systems, as well as operating systems for mobile devices. The presentation is motivational and explanatory in nature. We have avoided a discussion of how things are done internally in these chapters. Therefore, they are suitable for individual readers or for students in lower-level classes who want to learn what an operating system is without getting into the details of the internal algorithms.
- **Process management**. Chapters 3 through 6 describe the process concept and concurrency as the heart of modern operating systems. A ***process*** is the unit of work in a system. Such a system consists of a collection of ***concurrently*** executing processes, some of which are operating-system processes (those that execute system code) and the rest of which are user processes (those that execute user code). These chapters cover methods for process scheduling, interprocess communication, process synchronization, and deadlock handling. Also included is a discussion of threads, as well as an examination of issues related to multicore systems and parallel programming.
- **Memory management**. Chapters 7 and 8 deal with the management of main memory during the execution of a process. To improve both the utilization of the CPU and the speed of its response to its users, the computer must keep several processes in memory. There are many different memory-management schemes, reflecting various approaches to memory management, and the effectiveness of a particular algorithm depends on the situation.
- **Storage management**. Chapters 9 through 12 describe how mass storage, the file system, and I/O are handled in a modern computer system. The file system provides the mechanism for on-line storage of and access to both data and programs. We describe the classic internal algorithms and structures of storage management and provide a firm practical understanding of the algorithms used—their properties, advantages, and disadvantages. Since the I/O devices that attach to a computer vary widely, the operating system needs to provide a wide range of functionality to applications to allow them to control all aspects of these devices. We discuss system I/O in depth, including I/O system design, interfaces, and

internal system structures and functions. In many ways, I/O devices are the slowest major components of the computer. Because they represent a performance bottleneck, we also examine performance issues associated with I/O devices.

- **Protection and security**. Chapters 13 and 14 discuss the mechanisms necessary for the protection and security of computer systems. The processes in an operating system must be protected from one another's activities, and to provide such protection, we must ensure that only processes that have gained proper authorization from the operating system can operate on the files, memory, CPU, and other resources of the system. Protection is a mechanism for controlling the access of programs, processes, or users to computer-system resources. This mechanism must provide a means of specifying the controls to be imposed, as well as a means of enforcement. Security protects the integrity of the information stored in the system (both data and code), as well as the physical resources of the system, from unauthorized access, malicious destruction or alteration, and accidental introduction of inconsistency.
- **Case studies**. Chapter 15 in the text, along with Appendices A and B (which are available on http://www.os-book.com), present detailed case studies of real operating systems, including Linux, FreeBSD, and Mach. Coverage of Linux is presented throughout this text; however, the case studies provide much more detail.

Operating System Essentials

We have based *Operating System Essentials* on the Ninth Edition of *Operating System Concepts*, published in 2012. Our intention behind developing this *Essentials* edition is to provide readers with a textbook that focuses on the core concepts that underlie contemporary operating systems. By focusing on core concepts, we believe students are able to grasp the essential features of a modern operating system more easily and more quickly.

To achieve this, *Operating System Essentials* omits the following coverage from the Ninth Edition of *Operating System Concepts*:

1. We removed Chapter 7—Deadlocks—and instead offer a detailed overview of deadlocks in Chapter 6.
2. We removed Chapter 16—Virtual Machines.
3. We removed Chapter 17—Distributed Systems.
4. We removed Chapter 19—Windows 7.
5. We removed Chapter 20—Influential Operating Systems.

For those that wish to pursue a more comprehensive study of operating systems, we refer you to the Ninth Edition of *Operating System Concepts*, and in the following we describe the changes relevant to that edition.

The Second Edition

As we wrote this Second Edition of *Operating System Concepts Essentials*, we were guided by the recent growth in the following fundamental areas that affect operating systems:

1. Multicore systems
2. Mobile computing

We have integrated relevant coverage throughout this new edition To emphasize these topics. Additionally, we have rewritten material in almost every chapter by bringing older material up to date and removing material that is no longer interesting or relevant.

We have also made substantial organizational changes. For example, we have eliminated the chapter on real-time systems and instead have integrated appropriate coverage of these systems throughout the text. We have reordered the chapters on storage management and have moved up the presentation of process synchronization so that it appears before process scheduling. Most of these organizational changes are based on our experiences while teaching courses on operating systems.

Below, we provide a brief outline of the major changes to the various chapters:

- **Chapter 1, Introduction,** includes updated coverage of multiprocessor and multicore systems, as well as a new section on kernel data structures. Additionally, the coverage of computing environments now includes mobile systems and cloud computing. We also have incorporated an overview of real-time systems.
- **Chapter 2, Operating-System Structures,** provides new coverage of user interfaces for mobile devices, including discussions of iOS and Android, and expanded coverage of Mac OS X as a type of hybrid system.
- **Chapter 3, Processes,** now includes coverage of multitasking in mobile operating systems, support for the multiprocess model in Google's Chrome web browser, and zombie and orphan processes in UNIX.
- **Chapter 4, Threads,** supplies expanded coverage of parallelism and Amdahl's law. It also provides a new section on implicit threading, including OpenMP and Apple's Grand Central Dispatch.
- **Chapter 5, Process Synchronization** (previously Chapter 6), adds a new section on mutex locks as well as coverage of synchronization using OpenMP, as well as functional languages.
- **Chapter 6, CPU Scheduling** (previously Chapter 5), contains new coverage of the Linux CFS scheduler and Windows user-mode scheduling. Coverage of real-time scheduling algorithms has also been integrated into this chapter.
- **Chapter 7, Main Memory,** includes new coverage of swapping on mobile systems and Intel 32- and 64-bit architectures. A new section discusses ARM architecture.

- **Chapter 8, Virtual Memory,** updates kernel memory management to include the Linux SLUB and SLOB memory allocators.
- **Chapter 9, Mass-Storage Structure** (previously Chapter 11), adds coverage of solid-state disks.
- **Chapter 10, File-System Interface** (previously Chapter 9), is updated with information about current technologies.
- **Chapter 11, File-System Implementation** (previously Chapter 10), is updated with coverage of current technologies.
- **Chapter 12, I/O,** updates technologies and performance numbers, expands coverage of synchronous/asynchronous and blocking/nonblocking I/O, and adds a section on vectored I/O.
- **Chapter 13, Protection,** has no major changes.
- **Chapter 14, Security,** has a revised cryptography section with modern notation and an improved explanation of various encryption methods and their uses. The chapter also includes new coverage of Windows 7 security.
- **Chapter 15, The Linux System,** has been updated to cover the Linux 3.2 kernel.

Programming Environments

This book uses examples of many real-world operating systems to illustrate fundamental operating-system concepts. Particular attention is paid to Linux and Microsoft Windows, but we also refer to various versions of UNIX (including Solaris, BSD, and Mac OS X).

The text also provides several example programs written in C and Java. These programs are intended to run in the following programming environments:

- **POSIX**. POSIX (which stands for *Portable Operating System Interface*) represents a set of standards implemented primarily for UNIX-based operating systems. Although Windows systems can also run certain POSIX programs, our coverage of POSIX focuses on UNIX and Linux systems. POSIX-compliant systems must implement the POSIX core standard (POSIX.1); Linux, Solaris, and Mac OS X are examples of POSIX-compliant systems. POSIX also defines several extensions to the standards, including real-time extensions (POSIX1.b) and an extension for a threads library (POSIX1.c, better known as Pthreads). We provide several programming examples written in C illustrating the POSIX base API, as well as Pthreads and the extensions for real-time programming. These example programs were tested on Linux 2.6 and 3.2 systems, Mac OS X 10.7, and Solaris 10 using the `gcc` 4.0 compiler.
- **Java**. Java is a widely used programming language with a rich API and built-in language support for thread creation and management. Java programs run on any operating system supporting a Java virtual machine (or JVM). We illustrate various operating-system and networking concepts with Java programs tested using the Java 1.6 JVM.

- **Windows systems**. The primary programming environment for Windows systems is the Windows API, which provides a comprehensive set of functions for managing processes, threads, memory, and peripheral devices. We supply several C programs illustrating the use of this API. Programs were tested on systems running Windows XP and Windows 7.

We have chosen these three programming environments because we believe that they best represent the two most popular operating-system models —Windows and UNIX/Linux—along with the widely used Java environment. Most programming examples are written in C, and we expect readers to be comfortable with this language. Readers familiar with both the C and Java languages should easily understand most programs provided in this text.

In some instances—such as thread creation—we illustrate a specific concept using all three programming environments, allowing the reader to contrast the three different libraries as they address the same task. In other situations, we may use just one of the APIs to demonstrate a concept. For example, we illustrate shared memory using just the POSIX API; socket programming in TCP/IP is highlighted using the Java API.

Linux Virtual Machine

To help students gain a better understanding of the Linux system, we provide a Linux virtual machine, including the Linux source code, that is available for download from the website supporting this text (http://www.os-book.com). This virtual machine also includes a `gcc` development environment with compilers and editors. Most of the programming assignments in the book can be completed on this virtual machine, with the exception of assignments that require Java or the Windows API.

We also provide three programming assignments that modify the Linux kernel through kernel modules:

1. Adding a basic kernel module to the Linux kernel.
2. Adding a kernel module that uses various kernel data structures.
3. Adding a kernel module that iterates over tasks in a running Linux system.

Over time it is our intention to add additional kernel module assignments on the supporting website.

Supporting Website

When you visit the website supporting this text at http://www.os-book.com, you can download the following resources:

- Linux virtual machine
- C and Java source code

- Sample syllabi
- Set of Powerpoint slides
- Set of figures and illustrations
- FreeBSD and Mach case studies
- Set of review questions indexed by section
- Solutions to practice exercises
- Study guide for students
- Errata

Notes to Instructors

On the website for this text, we provide several sample syllabi that suggest various approaches for using the text in both introductory and advanced courses. As a general rule, we encourage instructors to progress sequentially through the chapters, as this strategy provides the most thorough study of operating systems. However, by using the sample syllabi, an instructor can select a different ordering of chapters (or subsections of chapters).

In this edition, we have added over sixty new written exercises and over twenty new programming problems and projects. Most of the new programming assignments involve processes, threads, process synchronization, and memory management. Some involve adding kernel modules to the Linux system which requires using either the Linux virtual machine that accompanies this text or another suitable Linux distribution.

Solutions to review questions, written exercises and programming assignments are available to instructors who have adopted this text for their operating-system class. To obtain these restricted supplements, contact your local John Wiley & Sons sales representative. You can find your Wiley representative by going to http://www.wiley.com/college and clicking "Who's my rep?"

Notes to Students

We encourage you to take advantage of the review questions (available online) and practice exercises that appear at the end of each chapter. The review questions as well as solutions to the practice exercises are available for download from the supporting website http://www.os-book.com. We also encourage you to read through the study guide, which was prepared by one of our students. Finally, for students who are unfamiliar with UNIX and Linux systems, we recommend that you download and install the Linux virtual machine that we include on the supporting website. Not only will this provide you with a new computing experience, but the open-source nature of Linux will allow you to easily examine the inner details of this popular operating system.

We wish you the very best of luck in your study of operating systems.

Contacting Us

We have endeavored to eliminate typos, bugs, and the like from the text. But, as in new releases of software, bugs almost surely remain. An up-to-date errata list is accessible from the book's website. We would be grateful if you would notify us of any errors or omissions in the book that are not on the current list of errata.

We would be glad to receive suggestions on improvements to the book. We also welcome any contributions to the book website that could be of use to other readers, such as programming exercises, project suggestions, on-line labs and tutorials, and teaching tips. E-mail should be addressed to os-book-authors@cs.yale.edu.

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