

3_Interrupts

Motivation

- When a user process is running on the CPU, how does OS stop it?
- When a user process accesses disk, how does OS verify that user has permission?
- When a user process crashes, how does OS regain control?

Topics

- Kernel Mode verses User Mode
- Interrupt Types
- IDT setup
- Interrupt lookup
- HW Interrupt
- System Calls
- Exceptions
- Examples

Kernel Mode verses User Mode

- Kernel Mode
 - Most privileged
 - Access to entire file system, memory space, all hardware
 - OS runs in this mode
- User Mode
 - Least privileged
 - Access to resources (like files and memory) that belong to current user
 - User processes run in this mode

Kernel Mode verses User Mode

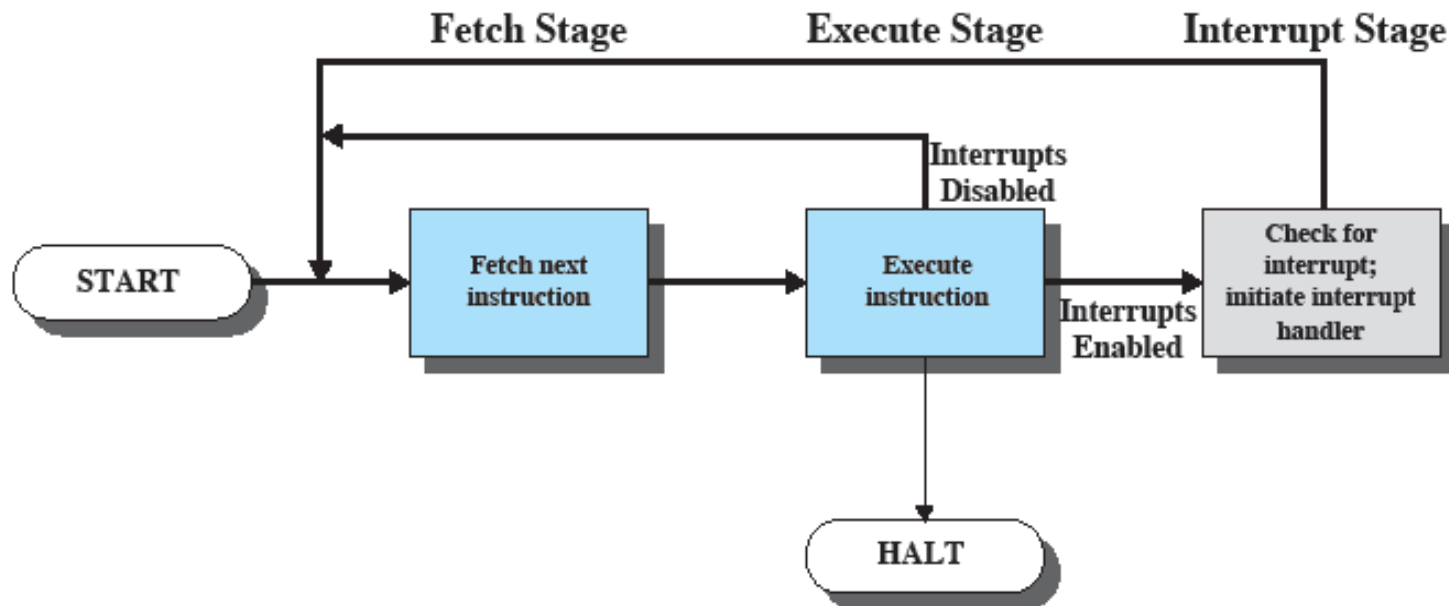
- Can be implemented with 1 bit in a CPU register, register is only accessible in Kernel mode (**means user mode programs cannot modify this bit**)
- What mode is process in?
 - 0=Kernel,
 - 1=User
- Set/Reset when handling interrupts (more coming)

Interrupt Types

- Hardware
 - Raised by hardware devices
 - Can occur at any time (**Asynchronous**)
 - Examples: timer (process switch), I/O signals
- System calls:
 - Software interrupts (**Synchronous**)
 - Raised by user programs to invoke OS functionality
- Exceptions
 - Generated by processor as a result of illegal action (**Synchronous**)
 - **Faults**: recoverable (page fault)
 - **Aborts**: difficult to recover (divide by 0)

Interrupt servicing

- Remember this cycle is for 1 machine instruction (assembly)
- NOT a high level language (like C++)
- Uses lookup table to find correct interrupt handler (**coming soon!**)
- Works for both synchronous and asynchronous interrupts

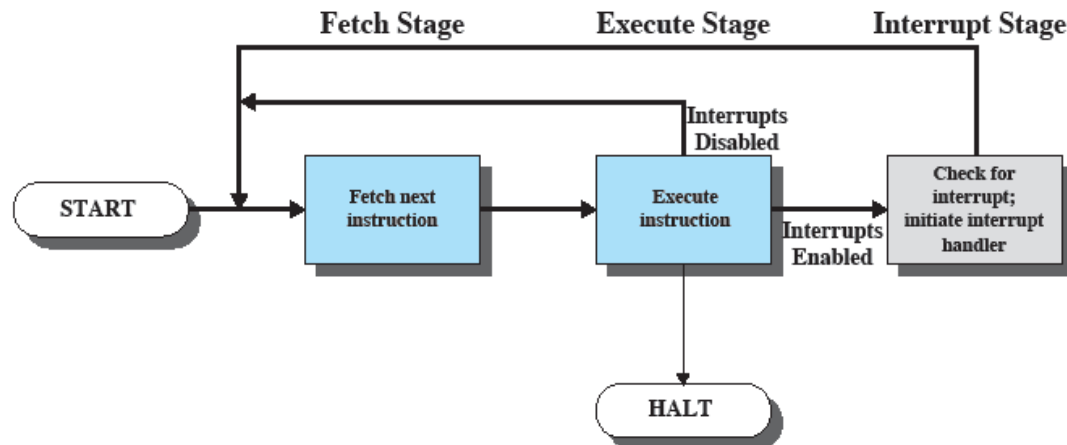


Interrupt servicing – pseudo code

```

while (fetch next instruction) {
    run instruction;
    if (interrupt occurred) {
        save process state    // user mode
        find and jump to OS-provided interrupt handler // kernel mode
        restore original process state from kernel stack
    }
    // user mode
}

```

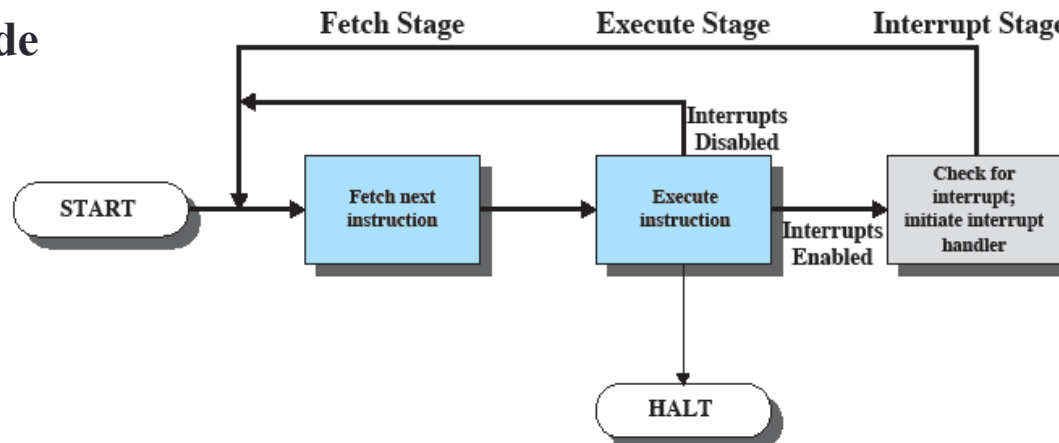


Interrupt servicing – better pseudo code

```

while (fetch next instruction) {
    run instruction;
    if (interrupt occurred) {
        save process state    // user mode
        find and jump to OS-provided interrupt handler // kernel mode
        OS chooses next process to run
        if new process
            load its state from mem
        else
            restore original process state from kernel stack
    }
    // user mode
}

```



Interrupt Descriptor Table (IDT) setup

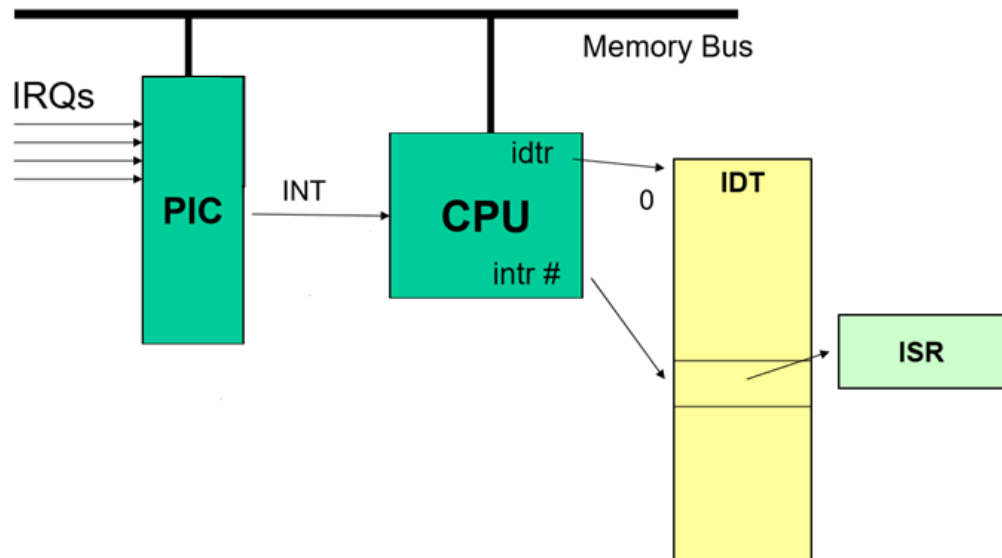
IDT Memory Layout



interrupt vector

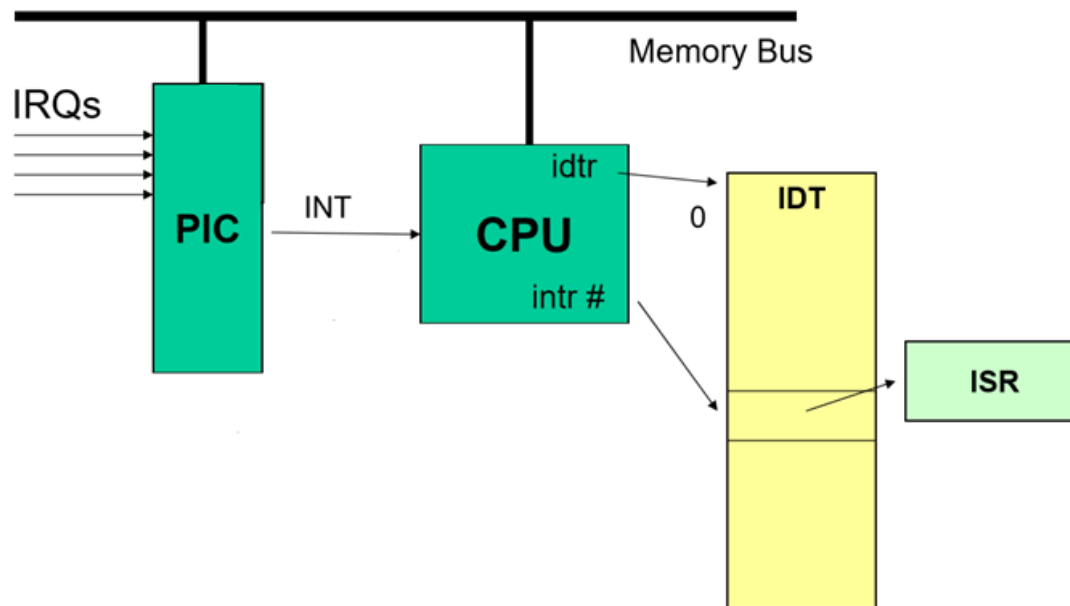
- OS sets up IDT at boot, its base pointed to by IDT register (IDTR) in CPU
- Each entry is address of an interrupt handler (known as Interrupt Service Routine (ISR))
- Each ISR handles a particular type of interrupt.

Hardware Interrupt Sequence



Hardware Interrupt

Asynchronous interrupt, can happen anytime



- Intr# generated by CPU
- In kernel mode – look up Intr# in IDT
- Run ISR associated with Intr#
- Either return to running process or load and run new one

System Calls

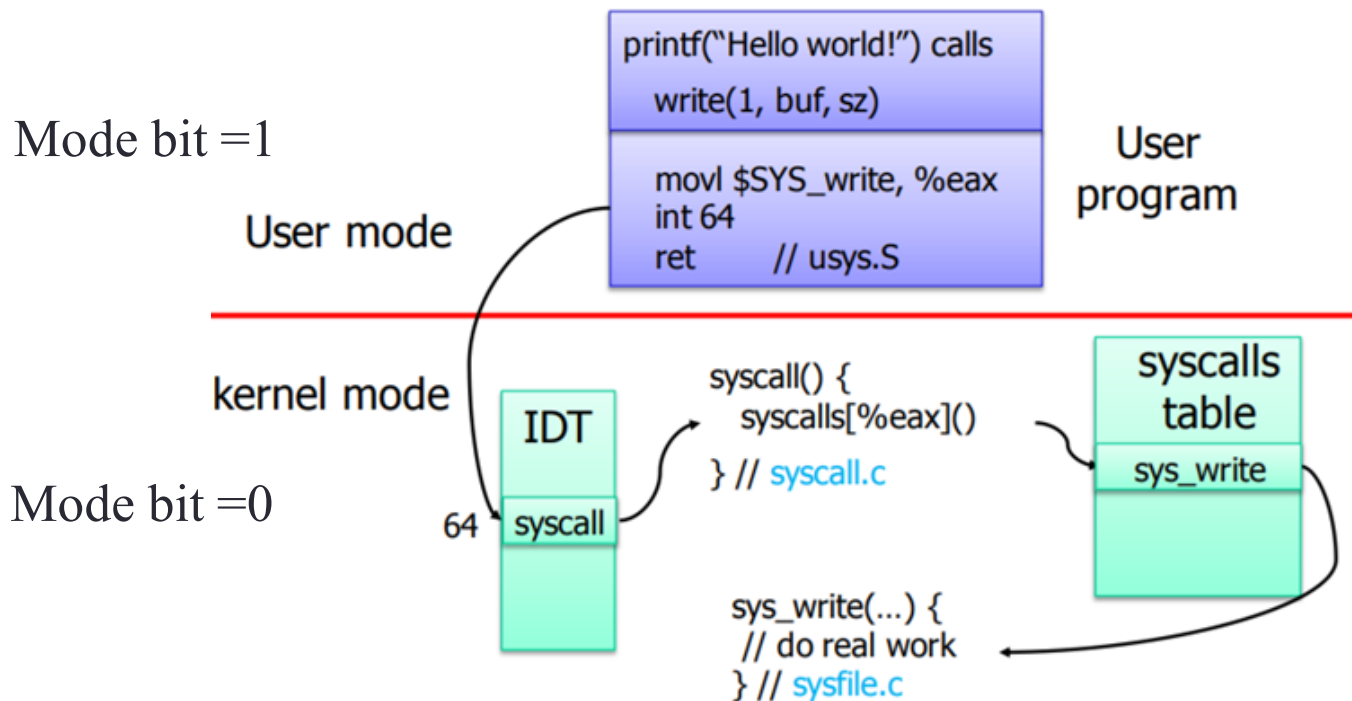
- Applications cannot perform privileged operations themselves
 - Otherwise they could access devices they should not (DMA controller to access other processes memory), write files they don't have permission too, elevate their privileges, etc.
- Instead, they ask OS to do so on their behalf by issuing system calls
- OS verifies permissions, then parameters then fulfills request.

System Call Types

- **Process Control** - process creation, process termination etc.
 - Ex. `fork()`, `exit()`, `wait()`
- **File Management**- file manipulation such as creating a file, reading a file, writing into a file etc.
 - Ex. `open()`, `read()`, `write()`, `close()` //to file
- **Device Management** - device manipulation such as reading from device buffers, writing into device buffers etc.
 - Ex. `read()`, `write()` //to console
- **Information Maintenance** - handle information and its transfer between the operating system and the user program.
 - Ex. `getpid()`, `alarm()`, `sleep()`
- **Communication** - interprocess communication. They also deal with creating and deleting a communication connection.
 - Ex `pipe()`

System Call

synchronous interrupt, you know its coming

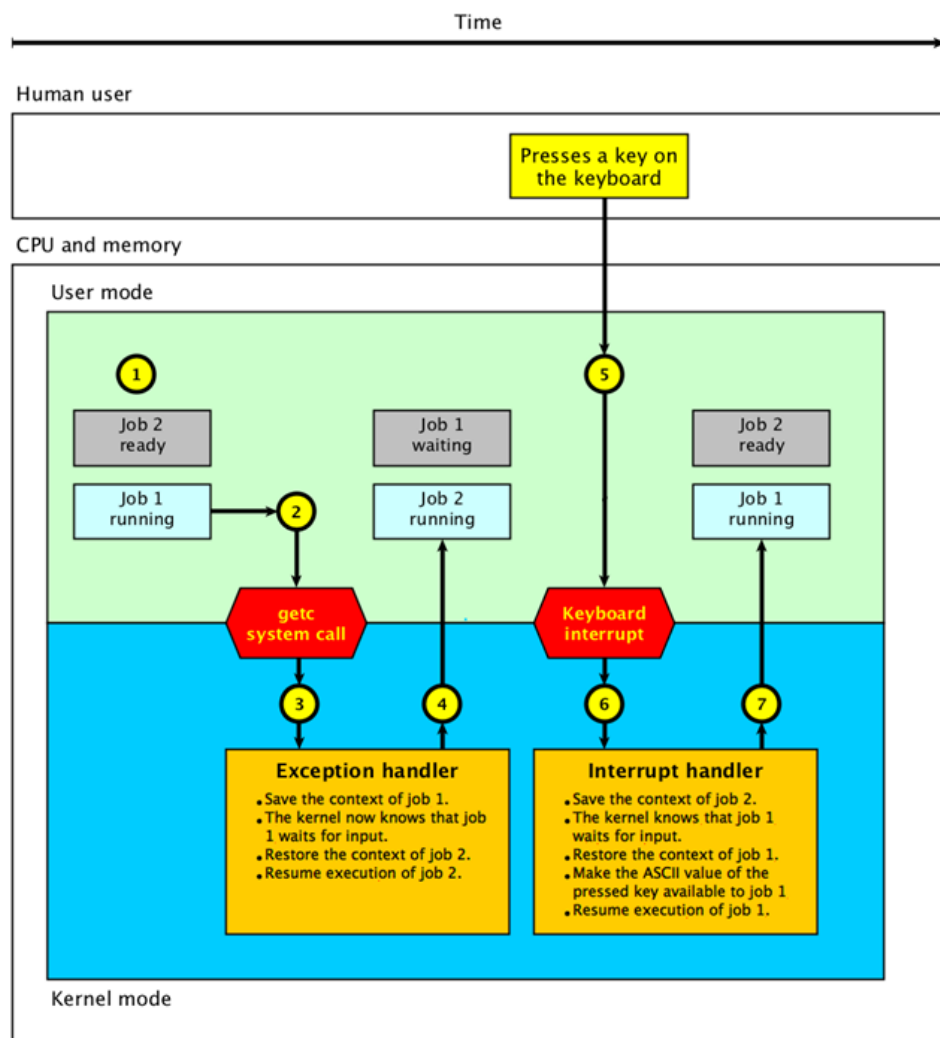


- Save what system call (`Sys_write`) in `eax` reg
- `int 64` synchronous interrupt
- In kernel mode – look up interrupt 64 in IDT (`syscall`)
- Use `eax` to index into `syscalls table` to get to `sys_write(...)`
- Either return to running process or load and run new one

Exceptions

- Divide by 0, dereference Null pointer, page fault
- Throws exception interrupt
- Transition to Kernel mode to handle interrupt type as defined in IDT
- Some are recoverable;
 - OS blocks current process, request page from mem, loads another process. When page available OS interrupted again and page is loaded and page fault process can run again
- Some are not
 - Divide by zero, OS logs error, terminates current process, loads a new process

Example - 2 programs, HW and system call interrupts



1. Job 2 is ready to run and job 1 is running.

2. Job 1 uses the getc system call to read a character from the keyboard.

3. The system call uses a **system call exception** to enter the kernel.

The kernel saves the context (all register values) of job 1.

The kernel now knows that job 1 waits for input and changes its state from **running** to **waiting**.

The kernel restores the context of job 2.

4. The kernel resumes execution of job 2 and changes its state from **ready** to **running**.

5. The human user presses a key on the keyboard.

6. The key-press causes a keyboard **interrupt** which is handled by the kernel.

The kernel saves the context of job 2 and changes its state from **running** to **ready**.

The kernel knows that job 1 waits for the getc system call to complete.

The kernel restores the context of job 1 and changes its state from **waiting** to **running**.

The ASCII value of the pressed key is made available to job 1.

7. The kernel resumes execution of job 1.

Summary

- Kernel versus user mode, when and how they are entered
- IDT and ISRs
- Types of interrupts (HW, System call, exception)
- Examples of both hardware and software interrupts

References

- This presentation was developed with the aid of the OSTEP text and the following websites
- http://faculty.salina.k-state.edu/tim/ossg/Introduction/sys_calls.html
- <http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~junfeng/13fa-w4118/lectures/l06-trap.pdf>
- <http://www.it.uu.se/education/course/homepage/os/vt18/module-1/system-call-design/>