

yhOS documentation

aceinetx (c) 2022-2025

System calls

| id (%eax) | %ebx | %ecx | %edx | description |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|--|
| SYS_WRITEC - 0 | character | - | - | Prints a character to the screen |
| SYS_WRITE - 1 | buffer | - | - | Prints a null terminated string to the screen |
| SYS_GETS - 2 | buffer | length | - | Requests a string from the user |
| SYS_VFSWRITE - 3 | filename (char*) | buffer (char*) | buffer_size (dword) | Writes a file to the virtual file system. If no file is found it will create it (if there is enough space). Returns 0 in eax if fails. Returns a content address if doesn't fail |
| SYS_VFSREAD - 4 | filename (char*) | buffer (char*) | buffer_size (dword) | Reads a file from the virtual file system. Returns 0 in eax if fails. Returns a content address if doesn't fail |
| SYS_VFSQUERY - 5 | filename (char*) | - | - | Queries file size from the virtual file system. Returns -1 in eax if fails |
| SYS_ALLOC - 6 | size | - | - | Allocates dynamic memory. (Exposes yalloc to raw assembly programs). Returns allocated address in eax |
| SYS_FREE - 7 | addr | - | - | Free's dynamic memory. (Exposes yfree to raw assembly programs) |
| SYS_VFSBASE - 8 | - | - | - | Returns a pointer to the beginning of virtual file system. (The returned pointer can become unusable if the filesystem size changes) |
| SYS_EXEAR | - | - | - | Get next argument |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|---|
| G - 9 | | | | passed to the executable from the shell. Returns a pointer to the argument. Need to free |
| SYS_VFSHANDLE - 10 | filename (char*) | - | - | Returns a pointer to the start address of a file. (The returned pointer can become unusable if the filesystem size changes) |
| SYS_ITOA - 11 | number | buffer (char*) | buffer size | Converts a number into a base-10 string |
| SYS_ITOA16 - 12 | number | buffer (char*) | buffer size | Similar to SYS_ITOA. Converts a number into a base-16 string |
| SYS_GETCWD - 13 | - | - | - | Returns a pointer to a string containing current working directory |

A writec system call example in flat assembler:

```
mov eax, SYS_WRITEC
mov ebx, 0x45
int 0x80
```

And in C:

```
syscall(SYS_WRITEC, 'E');
```

Virtual file system

yhOS has a mechanism called "Virtual file system". You can think of it like a virtual hard drive, it stores every file in RAM which unloads on restart.

Virtual file system is structured as a pointer to array of structures called `vfs_file`. This structure contains these variables: a `char*` filename, `char*` content, and `dword` size. Virtual file system is resizable at runtime via the dynamic memory allocator.

System calls that start with `SYS_VFS` are not for I/O but for the virtual file system

yhOS Static Executable Format (yhSE)

This is the default format yhOS uses for executables. This is the structure of yhSE header: (YHSE_IDENT is usually 5)

```
typedef struct {
    char ident[YHSE_IDENT];
    dword load_addr;
    dword entry;
    dword symtab_addr;
    dword symtab_size;
} yhse_hdr;
```

yhOS provides a toolchain to easily create these executables, the toolchain is located in /yhse directory and has these tools:

- i386-yhse-gcc
- i386-yhse-g++
- i386-yhse-ld

Remember: this is not actually a toolchain, but rather a collection helper scripts, linker scripts and header files to actually build the executable. So you would still need i386-elf toolchain installed on your machine

Magic addresses

yhOS has a few magic addresses that serve a important purpose. Here's the table of them:

| Address | Description |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 0x140000 (constant) | Saves a empty vga buffer |
| 0x200000 | Dynamic memory allocator start |
| 0x40000 | Default executable load address |
| 0x1000 | Kernel load address |