Understanding Shell internals to masterize Shell Commands

this document:

http://arnaud.nauwynck.chez-alice.fr/ devPerso/Pres/Pres-System-Shell-Java.pdf

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Plan

- Hello World Overview
 - Main = args + stdin/out + env...
- Kernel, System Resources
 - System Calls, Kernel/User Mode
 - Process, Thread, Memory Managment
 - Files
- Shells
 - Variables, Env, Evaluation
 - Files Redirection
 - Utility Bins

Hello World

```
public class Hello {
   public static void main(String[] args) {
     System.out.println(
        "Hello World" + args);
     System.exit(0);
 Launching from shell:
 # java -cp hello.jar Hello Mr Gosling > log.out
```

Hello World... Outside Java

- Kwnows what's really happens?
- The shell process does:
 - read command line
 - split text line as exe filename + args
 - lookup java in PATH
 - fork itself (bash)
 - open files to redirect in/out to console
 - exec as java
 - get exit code... loop to read next cmd line

System Calls Kernel Mode / User Mode

• "read", "write", "open", "fork", "exec", ...

are kernel system calls

- = entry-point to **Kernel-Mode** (Intel x86: "ring 0")
- = have access to ALL hardware resources, without restrictions
- By Opposition to User-Mode programs
 (the shell, java..) which have many restrictions

Global Hardware Resources

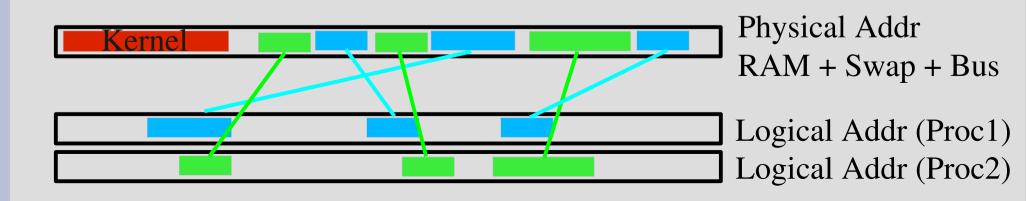
- Keyboard+Mouse (input), Screen (output)
- CPU (1 or several, multi-core..)
 - = assembly interpreter, using a stack + curr stack pointer + instruction pointer + registers
- Memory bus: Read/Write access to
 - RAM (all physical memory)
 - Hard drives, pci, scsi, ide, ...
 - Video card, eth card...
 - Bios (motherboard sub-programs)

Process Logical Resources

- All ressources are handled by the OS
 - Resources are wrapped in Object-Oriented services : Hardware Abstraction Layer
- Process are isolated / protected from others (separate sandbox / vm)
 - ... a Process should not crash the PC
 - or crash another process
- Most important isolation = Memory spaces

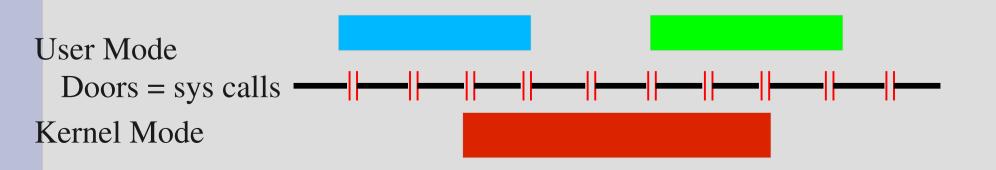
Memory Isolation: MMU

- Memory Management Unit convert logical <-> physical address
 - use memory Paging
 - every process owns its "page table"
- page handlers (call back per page types / markers)
 - ex: access to page for exe, heap, stack => ok
 - access to page "0", or unallocated => "page fault"
 - access to swap => transparent read/write to disk



Process Isolation: System Calls

- mechanism to go out out the MMU sandbox...
 execute code with ALL read/write access
- System Call steps:
 - put system call code number in special register
 - put extra args in other special registers
 - call interruption
 - => switch to ring 0, and execute system callback
 - read returned values in special registers



System Calls in Libc / Java

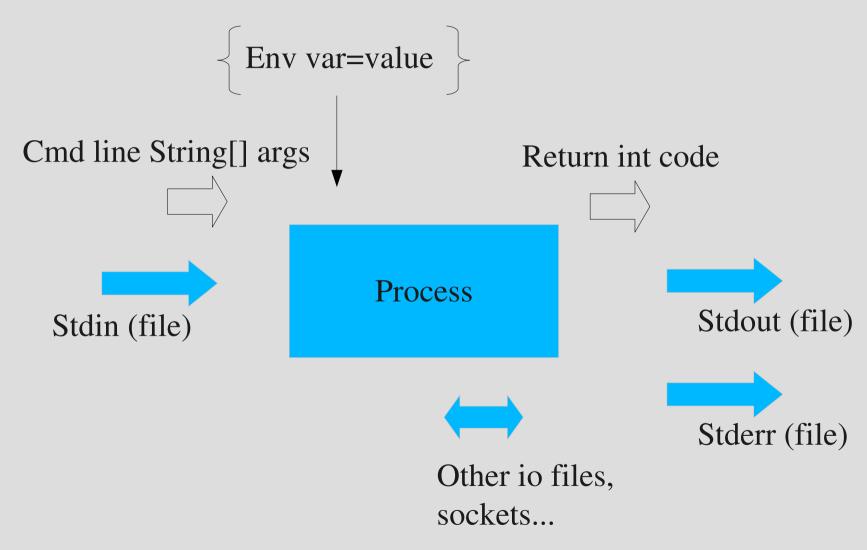
- painful to write low level assembly code reused the "libc"...
 - 1 system call <-> 1 C function in libc
 - libc also has high-level helper functions
- In Java, most System calls of interest are wrapped in a native method
 - 1 C system call <-> 0..1 java native
 - JVM = portability: only smallest common denominator of os

Process/Thread Definition

- Definition: a process is a task with a (mmu) page table ... isolated from other process
 - Thread: when sharing the same page table!!
 - In Linux... no real difference between process and thread (both called task)!
- Other Process Resources:
 - File Descriptors, Environment variables, ...
 - Working dir, chroot, ...

Graphical Process Representation

Working dir, userId, groupId, chroot, ...



Launch Process = Fork + Exec

- Pid "1" = process "init" (boot)
- Start a new one = "fork"
 - parent continue... child = clone of parent
 - Child inherit all from parent (files, env, etc...)
- Switch executable: "exec"
 - child mute to be different of parent
 - Child can close files, add setenv, ...
- Not a real parent-child tree:
 - Child with parent killed = "orphan"

Process Admin Tool

```
# Pstree -p# Ps -aux# kill -9 $pid
```

```
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help
arnaud@laptop:~/devPerso/CoursIUT$ pstree -p
init(1)-+-acpid(2780)
         -battstat-applet(3326)
         -bonobo-activati(3275)---{bonobo-activati}(3276)
         -cron(3120)
         -cupsd(2974)
          -dbus-daemon (2820)
         dbus - daemon (3236)
         dbus - launch (3235)
         -famd(3008)
          aconfd-2(3238)
          -gdm(2849)---gdm(2852)-+-Xorg(2855)
                                  `-x-session-manag(3167)-+-gnome-panel(3267)
                                                            -gnome-settings-(3249)---{gno
                                                            -metacity(3265)
                                                            -nautilus(3269)
                                                            -seahorse-agent(3244)
                                                            -ssh-agent(3231)
                                                            -ssh-agent(3232)
                                                            -{x-session-manag}(3250)
          aettv(3146)
          qetty(3147)
          getty(3148)
          getty(3149)
          getty(3150)
          -getty(3151)
```

Java proc admin:

```
# jps
# jstack
```

kill -3 \$pid (send signal != "kill")

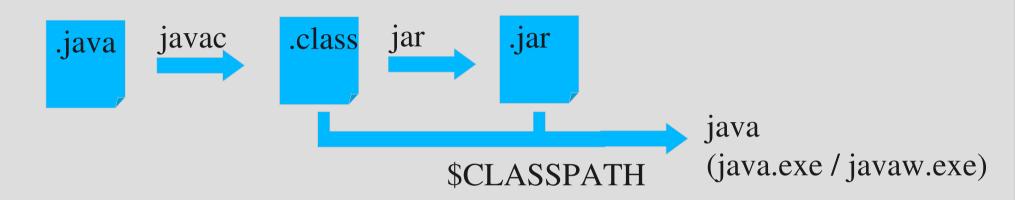
jconsole, jvmstat

Start/Stop Process&Thread in Java

- Start Process java.lang.System.exec("prog");
 - => fork + exec!
 - asynchronously .. can wait for exit

- start Thread: new Thread(runnable).start();
 - ... not recommended!
 - Either use SwingWorker (ui code),
 - or use j2ee threads (thread pool, workmanager, ...)
- stop Thread: other.setInterrupted();
 ...if (curr.isInterrupted()) throw new Excep();

Launch Java Main Program



- # myjre/bin/java
 - -cp \$CLASSPATH ... for jars files
 - -Xargs ... for jvm settings
 - -Dvar=value ... for env vars
 - fr.iut.MainClass ... the main!
 - Arg1 ... argN ... main args

Jvm Args -Xmx... -XX...

- Typical arguments:
 - java -Xmx512m -Xms100m -X
- see doc:
- # java -help, java -X, java -XX:...
 - -Xms<size> set initial Java heap size
 - -Xmx<size> set maximum Java heap size
 - -XX:MaxPermSize=<size> ... classloader size

System Env Variables

- set value
 - # export VAR="VALUE"
 - ... ou #VAR="VALUE"; export VAR
 - VAR="VALUE": "locale" variable for shell
- get value ... both shell and env value!
 - \$VAR ou \${VAR}
 - In C: getenv("VAR");
 - In Java: "java.lang.System.getProperty("VAR")

Main Argument Evaluation

- 1 String line => N args : main(String[] args)
 - Split (tokenize) using whitespaces
 - Eval \${} shell variables
 - Eval *, ? as file regexps
 - Sub-eval `cmd`, \$(cmd), \$((expr))
 - Protect chars with \, ' ', and " "

Protecting Whitespaces Args

" " and ' ': both to avoid splitting args ws

```
# Cmd a b => args[2]: { "a", "b" }
# Cmd "a b" => args[1]: { "a b" }
# Cmd a\ b => args[1]: { "a b" }
```

Difference " " vs ' '?... in " ", \$ are evaluated

```
# Cmd "$a b" => args[2]: { "123", "b" }
# Cmd '$a b' => args[1]: { "$a b" }
# Cmd \$a\ b => args[1]: { "$a b" }
```

Sub-Cmd Eval Details

3 forms to evaluate a string, and get result:

```
# eval cmd args
# `cmd args`
# $(cmd args)
```

- \$() is non ambiguous, compared to eval or ``
 ex: ``a`` => \$()a\$() or \$(\$(a)) ??!!
- example:
 - # res=`cat file.txt | wc -l`
 - # echo "file has \${res} lines"

Eval Arithmetic Expressions

```
# $((expr)) ... for arith expressions # test arg1..argN ... for boolean test # [ arg1..argN ] ... idem!
```

- ... /usr/bin/[is an alias for /usr/bin/test !!!
- ... strange magic for using "if [cond]"

Example:

- # echo "diff \$((\${res} \${comp})) lines"
- # if [\${res} > 5]; then echo "\$res >5"; fi
- # for ((i=0; \$i < 10; i=\$i + 1));do echo \$((i * 2));done

Difference Eval / Exec Sub-Shells

- file with header line
 #!/bin/bash
 => recognized by shell as executable
 (with "chmod u+x")
- to exec : shell fork a sub-shell # ./myscript.sh
- to source = do NOT fork a sub-shell:
 # source myscript.sh
 # . myscript.sh
 <= using DOT as shortcut
- ex: using # . setenv.sh (..var not lost in forked shell)

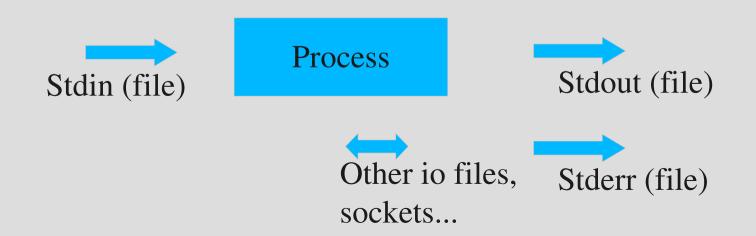
Next Part: Stdin / out / err Redirections

5 minutes exercises break

- Next Sub Part:
 - FileDescriptors and forking
 - Shell stdin, stdout, stderr redirection < | > >>
 - Unix Bin Utilities for in-out: echo,cat,xargs...

Process Std In / Out / Err

- Process have an array of open files
- Fork process => fork file descriptors
- In particular, processes have 3 std files:
 - FILE[0] = stdin (~keyboard device / file)
 - FILE[1] = stdout (~console/file, for logs)
 - FILE[2] = stderr (~console/file, for errors)



Shell Std in/out/err Redirection

- Keywords for redirecting: <, |, >, >>, 2>&1
 - # cmd < file.txt process can read on stdin the content of "file.txt"
 - # cmd > file.txt the process can write... to file.txt (overwrite)
 - # cmd >> file.txtto append to file.txt
 - # cmd1 | cmd2
 output of 1 = input of 2

Shell File Redirections

- How it works ? ... after forking itself
 - the shell open/close/ioctl files differently in parent and forked child!
 - Then call exec for the child

Ex:

```
- < f.txt : child.FILE[0]= fopen("f.txt", "r");
- > f.txt : child.FILE[1]= fopen("f.txt", "w");
- >> f.txt : child.FILE[1]= fopen("f.txt", "a");
- 2> f.txt : child.FILE[2]= fopen("f.txt", "w");
- 2>&1 : child.FILE[2]= child.FILE[1];
```

Pipes Redirection

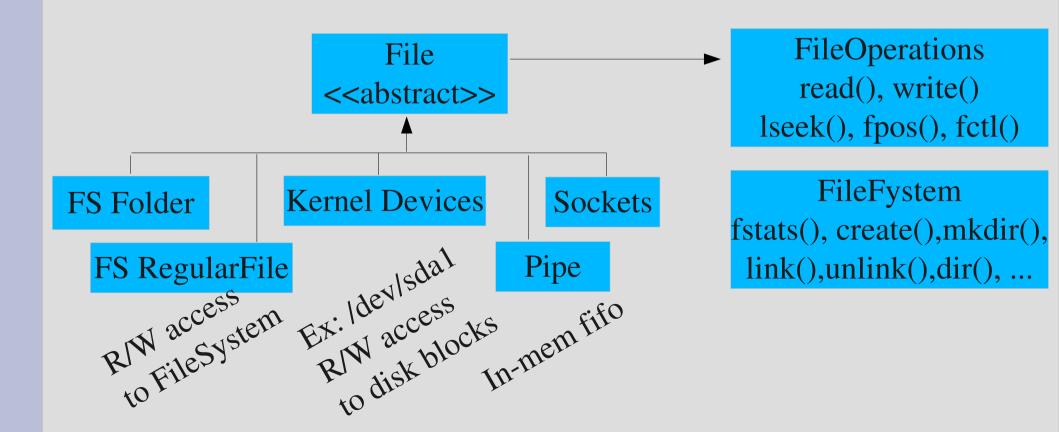
- # cmd1 | cmd2 the output of cmd1 ... is the input of cmd2 pr,pw = pipe(); // see also mkfifo cmd1.FILE[1] = pw; cmd2.FILE[0] = pr;
- A pipe is a special "file"
 - Internally: a fifo (in memory buffer of 4ko)



- Process synchronization:
 - Cmd1 is blocked on writing when pipe is full
 - Cmd2 reading empty

Unix Unified File Descriptors

- Legend: "On Unix, everything is a file"
- Most commands do simple things (kiss), with
 - Input = stdin or filename(s) as arguments
 - Output = stdout or filename(s) as arguments



Usage Example of Redirections

- Most unix commands are silent (!=DOS)
 - only result goes to stdout (or use -v)
 - errors are logged to stderr
- Ignore stdout logs:
 - # cmd > /dev/null
- Redirect stderr to stdout, both to file
 - # cmd 2>&1 > log.txt
- duplicate stdout to console and file
 - # cmd | tee log.txt | less

Bin Utils for cascading in/out: cat, echo, xargs, eval

• # cat file.txt

(file name args) cat Stdout

• # echo "arg1 .. argN"

(args) echo Stdout

cmd1 | xargs cmd2

cmd1 xargs cmd2

(reminder) # eval cmd, `cmd`, \$(cmd)

(args2..N) arg1

Other Bin Utils for in/out: grep, sed, cut, tail, head, awk...

- # grep patttern [file] ... select matched lines
- # grep -v pattern [file] ... select all but lines
- # sed 's/replaceThis/byThat/g'
 ... replace per lines
- # cut -f1 -d: ... extract column 1, separated by ':'
- # head -N : select N first lines
- # tail -N : select N end lines
- # awk, perl, python, java... for more

Bin Utils for Interactive in/out

- # less ... is more
- # tail -f file ... realtime reader (see also itail, mtail)
- # CNTRL+S / CNTRL+Q suspend / resume console inout
- # cat >> file.txt ... type ... CNTRL+D write to file from console, without text editor
- # read var... for reading/prompting in scripts
- # yes, expect ... automatic read/answer to interactive cmds

Next Part: Exec, Dynamic Linking

15 minutes exercises break

- Next Sub Part:
 - PATH, resolving exe filename
 - Dynamic Linking .so LD_LIBRARY_PATH
 - Ldd, advanced code injection, Itrace
 - JNI, native methods

Shell Process Resolution: \$PATH

- \$PATH is a built-in env var for shells
- # export PATH=/usr/bin:/usr/local/bin:~/scripts
 - ... tell the shell where to find exec in dirs
- # which filename
 - ... ask the shell where it would find exec
- Tip:
 - Usually `pwd` not in \$PATH ... too dangerous
 - To force finding exec in pwd: # ./myexe

LD_LIBRARY_PATH, Dynamic Linking

- \$LD_LIBRARY_PATH ... like \$PATH, but for finding shared libraries (.so), not exe
- Dynamic Linking versus Static Linking

ld -B dynamic -lmylib

myexe

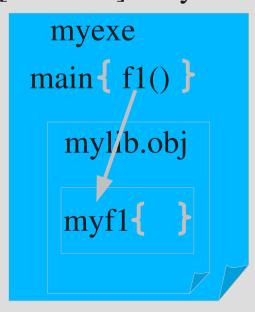
Symbol

F1 addr

table

main { f1() } myf1 { }

ld [-B static] -lmylib



Dynamic Linking, Idd

- Pros:
 - Library Code not HARD-linked with exe
 - Can upgrade library
 - Exe files size much smaller
 - Can inject/replace code, call code at runtime
- Cons: more complex dependency, slower?
- Dump:
 - # ldd myexe
 - # nm myexe

```
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help

arnaud@laptop:~$ ldd /home/soft/jv/jdk1.6.0_17/bin/java
linux-gate.so.1 => (0xb7fe3000)
libpthread.so.0 => /lib/i686/cmov/libpthread.so.0 (0xb7fb3000)
libjli.so => /home/soft/jv/jdk1.6.0_17/bin/../jre/lib/i386/jli/lib
libdl.so.2 => /lib/i686/cmov/libdl.so.2 (0xb7fa5000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/i686/cmov/libc.so.6 (0xb7e4a000)
/lib/ld-linux.so.2 (0xb7fe4000)
arnaud@laptop:~$ ■
```

Exec Internals with Dynamic Links

- At exec time,
 - .so are resolved and linked ... like # ldd
 - Load .so libraries files
 - Linked : real address in symbol dispatch table

If not found => exec failed..

Memory Mapping .so, Sharing Maps

- Mapping file in memory
 - File content locked to RAM, "read lazily"
 (cf MMU, memory pages, callback handler)

- Ref Count optimization
 - File already mapped => simply incr counter !!
 - Mapped as Read-Only (or "clone on write")
 - Save RAM ... Save Time to exec
- # ps ... process resource usage: size != vsize

process1 lib1.so	Ref count = 1
lib2.so	Ref count = 2
process2 lib3.so	Ref count = 1

Advanced Dynamic Link Usages Code Injection, Itrace

- Override \$LD_LIBRARY_PATH for 1 process
 => change its bindings
- Ex: Itrace (see also strace for syscalls logs)
 - Override "libc", and rebind with proxy loggers
 - # Itrace myexe args

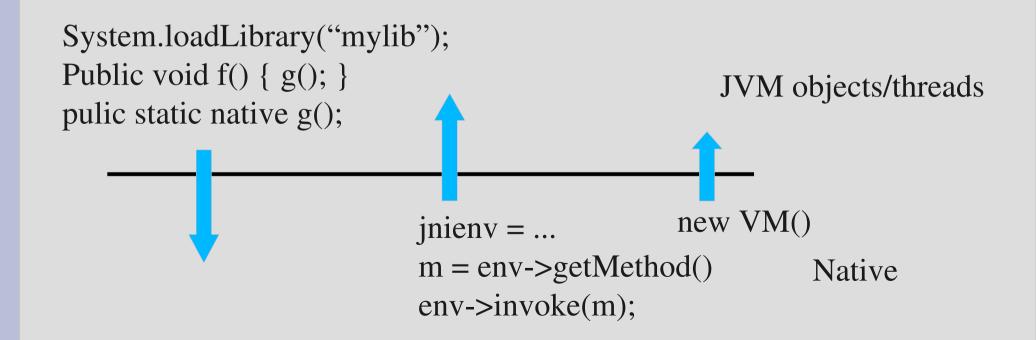
```
ltrace_ libc.so libc.so
```

Dynamic Link for RT Execution

- dynamic reflection (execution) is magic:
 - In shell, call "# eval cmd"
 - In java: call "Method m = ...; m.invoke();"
- In C ... More complex, but possible
 - "mmap(); f = &...; (*f)();"
 - System calls: mmap, exec ...
 - Lookup &.. from symbol name (like nm)
 - Libelf: utility library to read/write ELF files (analogy: bcel to read/write.class files)

JNI: Java Native Interface

- JNI contains 3 mecanisms:
 - Calling native code from java code
 - Calling java code from native
 - Starting embedded jvm in process



Example of JNI Usage

- Wrap OS specific system calls
 - Link, Symbolic link, mount, inotify, not supported in poor os => not in jvm!
- Use real Java UI : SWT (+Jface + Eclipse RCP)
 - Swing "lightweight" ui components is ugly: home made look&feel => not respecting os, not homogeneous with others languages!
- Swig (Simple Wrapper Generator)
 migrate simply .h files to java natives

More on linux,bash,java...

http//www.google.fr

http//wikipedia.fr

```
... or rtfm
# man bash
# less HOWTO/*
```

... or read sources ~/jdk/src.zip ~/jsdk/sources/...

Questions

Questions ??

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