Documentation

Program name: os_assignment1.c

General Logic: The program accepts a Shell command as input, calls the interpret function to convert the input into tokens and calls the implement function to execute the command using execvp().

Function main:

The main function accepts a Shell command as input, calls the interpret function to convert the input into tokens and calls the implement function to execute the command using execvp(). It also checks if the input is typed as "exit", if that is the case, it terminates the program. The global variable TRUE is declared as 1. So the while loop containing the display prompt will run as long as exit isn't called.

Function interpret:

This functions accepts an input line and converts it to tokens. First, it replaces all white spaces with zeros and when it hits a non-white space character, the address is saved to argv[], indicated as the beginning of an argument. Then it skips all non-white spaces which forms the argument.

Function implement:

This function receives the argument and calls fork () to create a child process. If the fork () fails, it exits. Once the fork call executes, the child process will always be created with a pid of zero. So the function first checks if pid is not zero, meaning it is in parent process. Since it is parent process, it waits for the child process to complete its execution by using waitpid(). If the pid is zero, it will execute the child process and then proceed to run the parent process.

Compile and execution:

Extract the contents of the zip/RAR file onto a folder. Open a terminal and go to the destination folder using 'cd' command. Then compile and execute the above file using the commands:

gcc os_assignment1.c ./a.out

The input can be any of the Shell commands: whoami - who you are logged in as date - shows current date/time uptime - show uptime du - show directory space usage df - show disk usage ping hostname - eg: ping google.com

Output Snapshot:

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Last login: Thu Aor 22 15:11:42 on trys000
artitioundskeafthis-MacBook-Air or X cod documents
artitioundskeafthis-MacBook-Air or X cod documents
artitioundskeafthis-MacBook-Air or Syme 'chore' 'chore 'chore' 'chore' 'chore' 'chore' 'chore' 'chore' 'chore' chore' chore
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