The need for abstraction for user programs

How to write a user program like the Bash shell that reads keyboard inputs from the user?

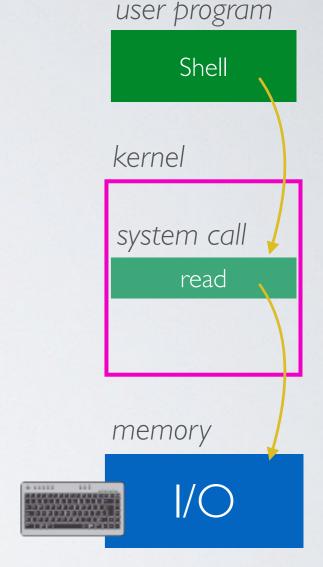
- → Read input data from the I/O device directly? But which one?
 - The one connected to the PS2 port?
 - The one connected to the USB?
 - The one connected to the bluetooth?
 - The remote one connected to the network?
- User programs do not operate I/O devices directly
- √ The OS abstracts those functionalities and provide them as system calls

System Calls

→ Provide user programs with an API to use the services of operating system

There are 5 categories of system calls

- Process control
- File management
- Device management
- Information/maintenance (system configuration)
- Communication (IPC)
- Protection



✓ There are 393 system calls on Linux 3.7

http://www.cheat-sheets.org/saved-copy/Linux_Syscall_quickref.pdf