# CHAPTER 05: Libraries and Procedures

## **Link Library Overview**

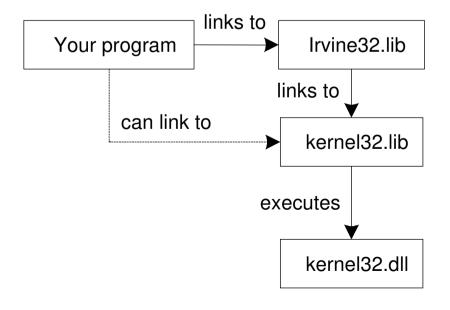
- A link library is a file containing procedures that have been assembled into machine code
  - Can be constructed from one or more object (.OBJ) files
- Textbook provides link libraries to simplify Input/Output
  - Irvine32.lib is for programs written in 32-bit protected mode
  - ◇ Irvine16.lib is for programs written in 16-bit real-address mode
- You can also construct your own link library
  - Start with one or more assembler source files (extension .ASM)
  - Assemble each source file into an object file (extension .OBJ)
  - Create an empty link library file (extension .LIB)
  - Add the OBJ files to the library file using the Microsoft LIB utility

# Linking to a Library

- Your program links to Irvine32.lib
- The link32.exe executable file is the 32-bit linker
  - The linker program combines a program's object file with one or more object files and link libraries
- To link myprog.obj to Irvine32.lib & kernel32.lib type ...

link32 myprog.obj Irvine32.lib kernel32.lib

- If a procedure you are calling is not in the link library, the linker issues an error message
- Kernel32.dll is called a dynamic link library, part of MS-Windows. It contains procedures that perform character-base I/O



## Next...

- Link Library Overview
- The Book's Link Library
- Runtime Stack and Stack Operations
- Defining and Using Procedures
- Program Design Using Procedures

## The Book's Link Library

- The book's link library Irvine32.lib consists of ...
  - Input procedures: ReadInt, ReadChar, ReadString, ...
  - Output procedures: Clrscr, WriteInt, WriteHex,
     WriteString, ...
  - Dumping registers and memory: DumpRegs and DumpMem
  - Random number generation: Randomize, Random32,
    ...
  - Cursor control procedures: GetMaxXY and Gotoxy
  - Miscellaneous procedures: SetTextColor, Delay, ...

# **Output Procedures**

Procedure	Description
Clrscr	Clears screen, locates cursor at upper left corner.
Crlf	Writes end of line sequence (CR,LF) to standard output.
WriteChar	Writes character in register AL to standard output.
WriteString	Writes a null-terminated string to standard output. String address should be passed in register EDX.
WriteHex	Writes EAX in hexadecimal format to standard output.
WriteInt	Writes EAX in signed decimal format to standard output.
WriteDec	Writes EAX in unsigned decimal format to standard output.
WriteBin	Writes EAX in binary format to standard output.

# Example: Displaying a String

Displaying a null-terminated string

Moving the cursor to the beginning of the next line

```
.data
str1 BYTE "Assembly language is easy!",0
.code
   mov edx, OFFSET str1
   call WriteString
   call Crlf
```

Adding the CR/LF control characters to the string definition

```
.data
str1 BYTE "Assembly language is easy!",13,10,0
.code
    mov edx, OFFSET str1
    call WriteString
No need to call Crif
```

# Example: Displaying an Integer

```
.code
  mov eax, -1000
  call WriteBin ; display binary
  call Crlf
  call WriteHex ; display hexadecimal
  call Crlf
  call WriteInt ; display signed decimal
  call Crlf
  call WriteDec ; display unsigned decimal
  call Crlf
```

#### Sample output

```
1111 1111 1111 1111 1111 1100 0001 1000
FFFFC18
-1000
4294966296
```

# Input Procedures

Procedure	Description
ReadChar	Reads a char from keyboard and returns it in the AL register. The character is NOT echoed on the screen.
ReadHex	Reads a 32-bit hex integer and returns it in the EAX register. Reading stops when the user presses the [Enter] key. No error checking is performed.
ReadInt	Reads a 32-bit signed integer and returns it in EAX.  Leading spaces are ignored. Optional + or – is allowed.  Error checking is performed (error message) for invalid input.
ReadDec	Reads a 32-bit unsigned integer and returns it in EAX.
ReadString	Reads a string of characters from keyboard.  Additional null-character is inserted at the end of the string.  EDX = address of array where input characters are stored.  ECX = maximum characters to be read + 1 (for null byte)  Return EAX = count of non-null characters read.

# Example: Reading a String

#### Before calling ReadString ...

EDX should have the address of the string.

ECX specifies the maximum number of input chars + 1 (null byte).

```
.data
inputstring BYTE 21 DUP(0) ; extra 1 for null byte
actualsize DWORD 0

.code
   mov edx, OFFSET inputstring
   mov ecx, SIZEOF inputstring
   call ReadString
   mov actualsize, eax
```

Actual number of characters read is returned in EAX A null byte is automatically appended at the end of the string

# **Dumping Registers and Memory**

## DumpRegs

- Writes EAX, EBX, ECX, and EDX on first line in hexadecimal
- Writes ESI, EDI, EBP, and ESP on second line in hexadecimal
- Writes EIP, EFLAGS, CF, SF, ZF, and OF on third line

## Example: Dumping a Word Array

```
.data
array WORD 2 DUP (0, 10, 1234, 3CFFh)

.code

mov esi, OFFSET array
mov ecx, LENGTHOF array
mov ebx, TYPE array
call DumpMem
```

#### Console Output

```
Dump of offset 00405000
-----
0000 000A 04D2 3CFF 0000 000A 04D2 3CFF
```

## Random Number Generation

#### Randomize

- Seeds the random number generator with the current time
- The seed value is used by Random32 and RandomRange

#### • Random32

- Generates an unsigned pseudo-random 32-bit integer
- Returns value in EAX = random (0 to FFFFFFFh)

#### RandomRange

- Generates an unsigned pseudo-random integer from 0 to n 1
- Call argument: EAX = n
- Return value in EAX = random (0 to n 1)

## Example on Random Numbers

Generate and display 5 random numbers from 0 to 999

```
mov ecx, 5 ; loop counter

L1: mov eax, 1000 ; range = 0 to 999
call RandomRange ; eax = random integer
call WriteDec ; display it
call Crlf ; one number per line
loop L1
```

#### Console Output

```
194
702
167
257
607
```

# Additional Library Procedures

Procedure	Description
WaitMsg	Displays "Press [Enter] to Continue" and waits for user.
SetTextColor	Sets the color for all subsequent text output. Bits $0 - 3$ of EAX = foreground color. Bits $4 - 7$ of EAX = background color.
Delay	Delay program for a given number of milliseconds.  EAX = number of milliseconds.
GetMseconds	Return in EAX the milliseconds elapsed since midnight.
Gotoxy	Locates cursor at a specific row and column on the console.  DH = row number  DL = column number
GetMaxXY	Return the number of columns and rows in console window buffer Return value DH = current number of rows Return value DL = current number of columns

## Example on TextColor

Display a null-terminated string with yellow characters on a blue background

```
.data
   str1 BYTE "Color output is easy!",0
. code
  mov eax, yellow + (blue * 16)
  call SetTextColor
                                      Command Prompt
  call Clrscr
                                      Color output is easy!
  mov edx, OFFSET str1
                                      C:\C0E2Ø5>
  call WriteString
  call Crlf
```

The colors defined in Irvine32.inc are:

black, white, brown, yellow, blue, green, cyan, red, magenta, gray, lightBlue, lightGreen, lightCyan, lightRed, lightMagenta, and lightGray.

# Measuring Program Execution Time

```
data
  time BYTE "Execution time in milliseconds: ",0
  start DWORD ? ; start execution time
. code
main PROC
  call GetMseconds; EAX = milliseconds since midnight
 mov start, eax; save starting execution time
  call WaitMsq ; Press [Enter] to continue ...
 mov eax, 2000 ; 2000 milliseconds
  call delay ; pause for 2 seconds
  lea edx, time
  call WriteString
                                                        _ | _ | ×
                           Command Prompt
  call GetMseconds
                           C:\COE205>exectime
                           Press [Enter] to continue...
  sub eax, start
                           Execution time in milliseconds: 3145
  call WriteDec
  exit
main ENDP
END main
```

## Next . . .

- Link Library Overview
- The Book's Link Library
- Runtime Stack and Stack Operations
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## What is a Stack?

- Stack is a Last-In-First-Out (LIFO) data structure
  - Analogous to a stack of plates in a cafeteria
  - Plate on Top of Stack is directly accessible
- Two basic stack operations
  - ◆ Push: inserts a new element on top of the stack
  - ◇ Pop: deletes top element from the stack
- View the stack as a linear array of elements
  - Insertion and deletion is restricted to one end of array
- Stack has a maximum capacity
  - When stack is **full**, no element can be pushed
  - When stack is **empty**, no element can be popped

## Runtime Stack

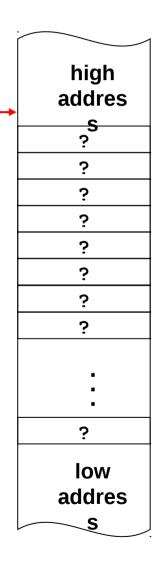
- Runtime stack: array of consecutive memory locations
- Managed by the processor using two registers
  - Stack Segment register SS
    - Not modified in protected mode, SS points to segment descriptor
  - Stack Pointer register ESP
    - For 16-bit real-address mode programs, SP register is used
- **ESP** register points to the **top of stack** 
  - Always points to last data item placed on the stack
- Only words and doublewords can be pushed and popped
  - But not single bytes
- Stack grows downward toward lower memory addresses

## Runtime Stack Allocation

- \*.STACK directive specifies a runtime stack
  - Operating system allocates memory for the stack
  - Runtime stack is initially empty

**ESP = 0012FFC4** 

- The stack size can change dynamically at runtime
- Stack pointer ESP
  - **ESP** is initialized by the operating system
  - Typical initial value of ESP = 0012FFC4h
- The stack grows downwards
  - The memory below ESP is free
  - ESP is decremented to allocate stack memory



## Stack Instructions

- Two basic stack instructions:
  - ♦push source
  - ◇pop destination
- Source can be a word (16 bits) or doubleword (32 bits)
  - General-purpose register
  - Segment register: CS, DS, SS, ES, FS, GS
  - Memory operand, memory-to-stack transfer is allowed
  - Immediate value
- \*Destination can be also a word or doubleword
  - General-purpose register
  - Segment register, except that pop cs is NOT allowed
  - Memory, stack-to-memory transfer is allowed

## **Push Instruction**

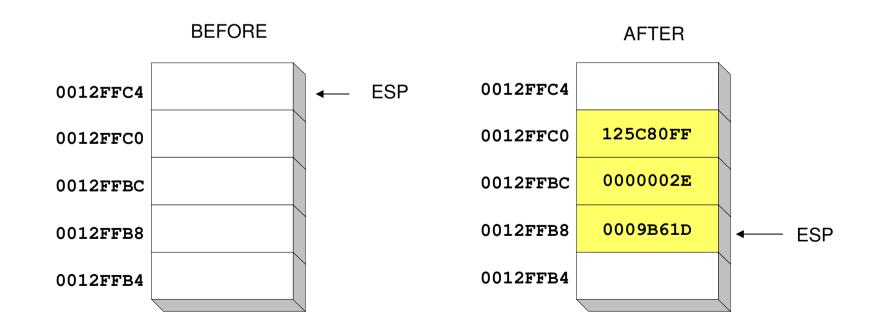
- ❖Push source32 (r/m32 or imm32)
  - ESP is first decremented by 4
    - ESP = ESP 4 (stack grows by 4 bytes)
  - 32-bit source is then copied onto the stack at the new **ESP** 
    - [ESP] = source32
- ❖Push source16 (r/m16)
  - ♦ ESP is first decremented by 2
    - ESP = ESP 2 (stack grows by 2 bytes)
  - 16-bit source is then copied on top of stack at the new ESP
    - [ESP] = source16
- Operating system puts a limit on the stack capacity
  - Push can cause a Stack Overflow (stack cannot grow)

## Examples on the Push Instruction

- Suppose we execute:
  - PUSH EAX; EAX = 125C80FFh
  - PUSH EBX ; EBX = 2Eh
  - PUSH ECX; ECX = 9B61Dh

The stack grows downwards

The area below ESP is free



## Pop Instruction

### ❖Pop dest32 (r/m32)

- 32-bit doubleword at ESP is first copied into dest32
  - dest32 = [ESP]
- ESP is then incremented by 4
  - ESP = ESP + 4 (stack shrinks by 4 bytes)

#### ♣Pop dest16 (r/m16)

- 16-bit word at ESP is first copied into dest16
  - dest16 = [ESP]
- ESP is then incremented by 2
  - ESP = ESP + 2 (stack shrinks by 2 bytes)
- Popping from an empty stack causes a stack underflow

## Examples on the Pop Instruction

Suppose we execute:

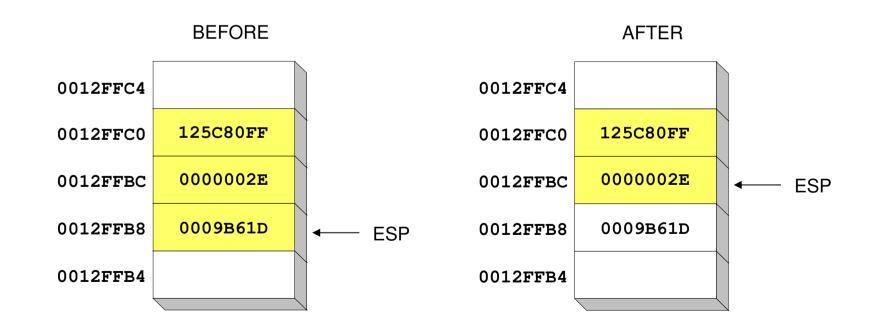
-POPSI; SI = B61Dh

; DI = 0009h

- POP DI

The stack shrinks upwards

The area at & above ESP is allocated



## Uses of the Runtime Stack

- Runtime Stack can be utilized for
  - Temporary storage of data and registers
  - Transfer of program control in procedures and interrupts
  - Parameter passing during a procedure call
  - Allocating local variables used inside procedures
- Stack can be used as temporary storage of data
  - Example: exchanging two variables in a data segment

```
push var1; var1 is pushed
push var2; var2 is pushed
pop var1; var1 = var2 on stack
pop var2; var2 = var1 on stack
```

## Temporary Storage of Registers

Stack is often used to free a set of registers

Example on moving DX:AX into EBX

## Example: Nested Loop

When writing a nested loop, push the outer loop counter ECX before entering the inner loop, and restore ECX after exiting the inner loop and before repeating the outer loop

```
mov ecx, 100 ; set outer loop count
       ; begin the outer loop
L1:. . .
  mov ecx, 20 ; set inner loop count
L2:. . .
         ; begin the inner loop
          ; inner loop
  loop L2
              ; repeat the inner loop
              ; outer loop
  pop ecx ; restore outer loop count
  loop L1
              ; repeat the outer loop
```

# Push/Pop All Registers

#### pushad

- Pushes all the 32-bit general-purpose registers
- EAX, ECX, EDX, EBX, ESP, EBP, ESI, and EDI in this order
- Initial ESP value (before pushad) is pushed
- ESP = ESP 32

#### pusha

- Same as pushad but pushes all 16-bit registers AX through DI
- ESP = ESP 16

#### popad

- Pops into registers EDI through EAX in reverse order of pushad
- ESP is not read from stack. It is computed as: ESP = ESP + 32

#### popa

- Same as popad but pops into 16-bit registers. ESP = ESP + 16

## Stack Instructions on Flags

Special Stack instructions for pushing and popping flags

#### pushfd

Push the 32-bit EFLAGS

#### ♦ popfd

- Pop the 32-bit EFLAGS
- No operands are required
- Useful for saving and restoring the flags
- For 16-bit programs use pushf and popf
  - Push and Pop the 16-bit FLAG register

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## Procedures

- A procedure is a logically self-contained unit of code
  - Called sometimes a function, subprogram, or subroutine
  - Receives a list of parameters, also called arguments
  - Performs computation and returns results
  - Plays an important role in modular program development
- Example of a procedure (called function) in C language

```
int sumof ( int x,int y,int z ) {
sult type int temp;
temp = x + y + z;
return temp;
}
Return function result
```

The above function sumof can be called as follows:

```
sum = sumof( num1, num2, num3);  Actual parameter list
```

# Defining a Procedure in Assembly

- Assembler provides two directives to define procedures
  - PROC to define name of procedure and mark its beginning
  - ENDP to mark end of procedure

```
* A typical procedure definition is

procedure_name PROC

. . .

; procedure body

. . .

procedure_name ENDP
```

procedure\_name should match in PROC and ENDP

## **Documenting Procedures**

- Suggested Documentation for Each Procedure:
  - Does: Describe the task accomplished by the procedure
  - Receives: Describe the input parameters
  - Returns: Describe the values returned by the procedure
  - Requires: List of requirements called preconditions
- Preconditions
  - Must be satisfied before the procedure is called
  - If a procedure is called without its preconditions satisfied,
     it will probably not produce the expected output

# Example of a Procedure Definition

- The sumof procedure receives three integer parameters
  - Assumed to be in EAX, EBX, and ECX
  - Computes and returns result in register EAX

• The ret instruction returns control to the caller

### The Call Instruction

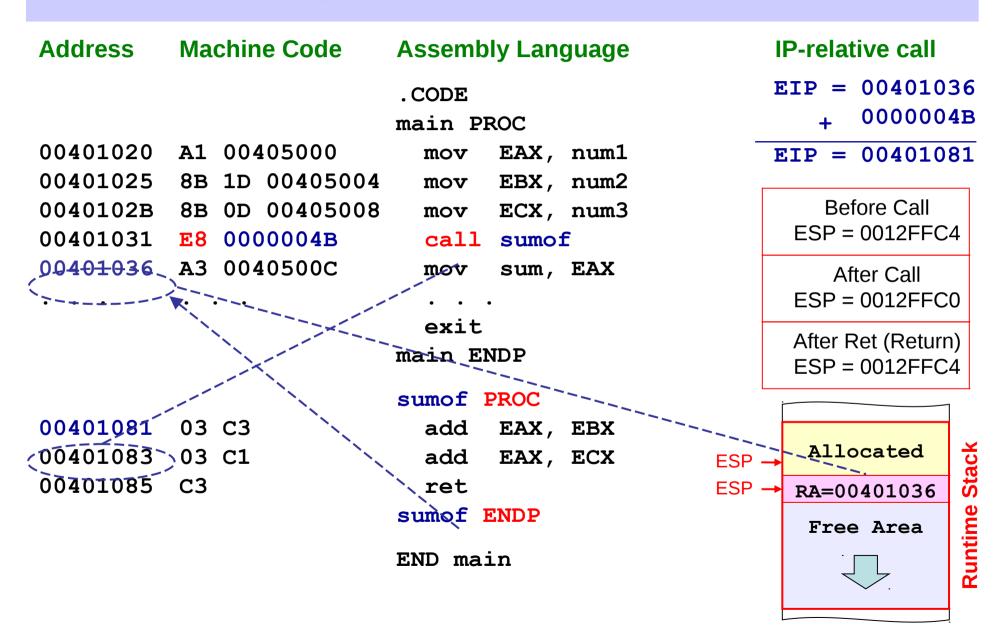
- To invoke a procedure, the call instruction is used
- The call instruction has the following format call procedure name
- Example on calling the procedure sumof
  - Caller passes actual parameters in EAX, EBX, and ECX
  - Before calling procedure sumof

\*call sumof will call the procedure sumof

# How a Procedure Call / Return Works

- How does a procedure know where to return?
  - There can be multiple calls to same procedure in a program
  - Procedure has to return differently for different calls
- It knows by saving the return address (RA) on the stack
  - This is the address of next instruction after call
- The call instruction does the following
  - Pushes the **return address** on the stack
  - Jumps into the first instruction inside procedure
  - **♦ ESP = ESP 4**; [ESP] = RA; EIP = procedure address
- The ret (return) instruction does the following
  - Pops return address from stack
  - Jumps to return address: EIP = [ESP]; ESP = ESP + 4

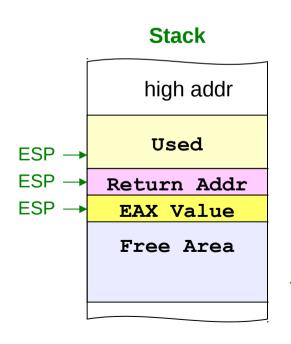
### Details of CALL and Return



### Don't Mess Up the Stack!

- Just before returning from a procedure
  - Make sure the stack pointer ESP is pointing at return address
- Example of a messed-up procedure
  - Pushes EAX on the stack before returning
  - Stack pointer ESP is NOT pointing at return address!

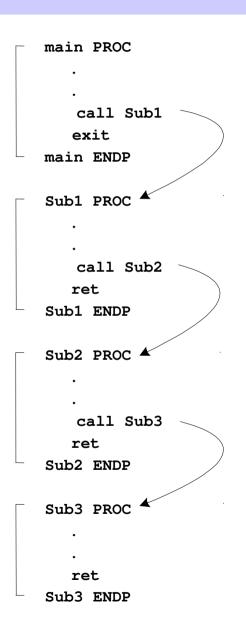
```
main PROC
call messedup
. . . .
exit
main ENDP
messedup PROC
push EAX
ret
messedup ENDP
```



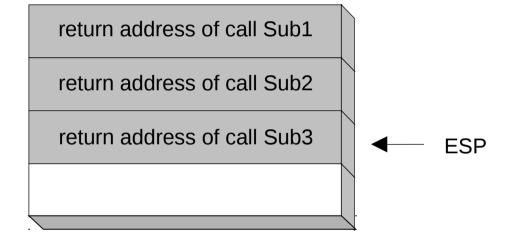
Where to return?

EAX value is NOT the return address!

### **Nested Procedure Calls**



By the time Sub3 is called, the stack contains all three return addresses



### Parameter Passing

- Parameter passing in assembly language is different
  - More complicated than that used in a high-level language
- In assembly language
  - Place all required parameters in an accessible storage area
  - Then call the procedure
- Two types of storage areas used
  - Registers: general-purpose registers are used (register method)
  - Memory: stack is used (stack method)
- Two common mechanisms of parameter passing
  - Pass-by-value: parameter value is passed
  - Pass-by-reference: address of parameter is passed

# Passing Parameters in Registers

```
; ArraySum: Computes the sum of an array of integers
; Receives: ESI = pointer to an array of doublewords
         ECX = number of array elements
; Returns: EAX = sum
ArraySum PROC
                   ; set the sum to zero
  mov eax,0
L1:add eax, [esi] ; add each integer to sum
   add esi, 4 ; point to next integer
   loop L1
                       ; repeat for array size
   ret
ArraySum ENDP
```

ESI: Reference parameter = array address

ECX: **Value** parameter = count of array elements

# **Preserving Registers**

- Need to preserve the registers across a procedure call
  - Stack can be used to preserve register values
- Which registers should be saved?
  - Those registers that are modified by the called procedure
    - But still used by the calling procedure
  - We can save all registers using **pusha** if we need most of them
    - However, better to save only needed registers when they are few
- Who should preserve the registers?
  - Calling procedure: saves and frees registers that it uses
    - Registers are saved before procedure call and restored after return
  - Called procedure: **preferred method** for modular code
    - Register preservation is done in one place only (inside procedure)

# Example on Preserving Registers

```
; ArraySum: Computes the sum of an array of integers
; Receives: ESI = pointer to an array of doublewords
        ECX = number of array elements
; Returns: EAX = sum
ArraySum PROC
                   ; save esi, it is modified
  push esi
   push ecx
                        ; save ecx, it is modified
                  ; set the sum to zero
  mov eax,0
L1:add eax, [esi] ; add each integer to sum
   add esi, 4
                 ; point to next integer
   loop L1
                        ; repeat for array size
  pop ecx
                        ; restore registers
  pop esi
                        ; in reverse order
   ret
                           No need to save EAX. Why?
ArraySum ENDP
```

### **USES** Operator

- The USES operator simplifies the writing of a procedure
  - Registers are frequently modified by procedures
  - Just list the registers that should be preserved after USES
  - Assembler will generate the push and pop instructions

```
ArraySum PROC
                                       - push esi
ArraySum PROC USES esi ecx
                                         push ecx
   mov eax,0
                                         mov eax,0
L1:add eax, [esi]
                                      L1: add eax, [esi]
   add esi, 4
                                         add esi, 4
   loop L1
                                          loop L1
   ret
                                          pop
                                              ecx
ArraySum ENDP
                                          pop esi
                                          ret.
                                      ArraySum ENDP
```

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# Program Design using Procedures

- Program Design involves the Following:
  - Break large tasks into smaller ones
  - Use a hierarchical structure based on procedure calls
  - Test individual procedures separately

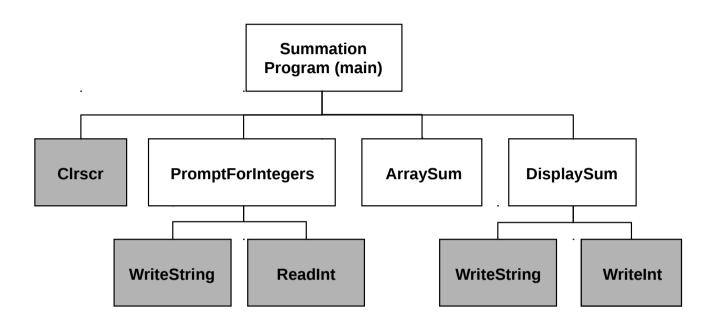
#### **Integer Summation Program:**

Write a program that prompts the user for multiple 32-bit integers, stores them in an array, calculates the array sum, and displays the sum on the screen.

#### Main steps:

- 1. Prompt user for multiple integers
- 2. Calculate the sum of the array
- 3. Display the sum

### Structure Chart



#### Structure Chart

Above diagram is called a structure chart

Describes program structure, division into procedure, and call sequence

Link library procedures are shown in grey

# Integer Summation Program – 1 of

```
INCLUDE Irvine32.inc
ArraySize EQU 5
DATA
  prompt1 BYTE "Enter a signed integer: ",0
  prompt2 BYTE "The sum of the integers is: ",0
  array DWORD ArraySize DUP(?)
. CODE
main PROC
  call Clrscr
                       ; clear the screen
  mov esi, OFFSET array
  mov ecx, ArraySize
  call PromptForIntegers
                             ; store input integers in
array
  call ArraySum ; calculate the sum of array
  call DisplaySum
                       ; display the sum
  exit
main ENDP
```

# Integer Summation Program – 2 of

4

```
; PromptForIntegers: Read input integers from the user
; Receives: ESI = pointer to the array
          ECX = array size
; Returns: Fills the array with the user input
PromptForIntegers PROC USES ecx edx esi
  mov edx, OFFSET prompt1
L1:
  call ReadInt
                       ; read integer into EAX
                       ; go to next output line
  call Crlf
  mov [esi], eax
                       ; store integer in array
  add esi, 4
                       ; advance array pointer
  loop L1
  ret
PromptForIntegers ENDP
```

# Integer Summation Program – 3 of

4

```
; ArraySum: Calculates the sum of an array of integers
; Receives: ESI = pointer to the array,
           ECX = array size
; Returns: EAX = sum of the array elements
ArraySum PROC USES esi ecx
 mov eax, 0
                      ; set the sum to zero
L1:
 add eax, [esi] ; add each integer to sum
 add esi, 4
                       ; point to next integer
                       ; repeat for array size
 loop L1
 ret
                       ; sum is in EAX
ArraySum ENDP
```

# Integer Summation Program – 4 of

4

```
; DisplaySum: Displays the sum on the screen
; Receives: EAX = the sum
; Returns: nothing
DisplaySum PROC
  mov edx, OFFSET prompt2
  call WriteString
                             ; display prompt2
  call WriteInt
                             ; display sum in EAX
  call Crlf
  ret
DisplaySum ENDP
END main
```

# Sample Output

```
Enter a signed integer: 550

Enter a signed integer: -23

Enter a signed integer: -96

Enter a signed integer: 20

Enter a signed integer: 7

The sum of the integers is: +458
```

### Freeing Passed Parameters From Stack

 Use RET N instruction to free parameters from stack

```
Example: Accessing parameters on the stack
Test PROC
mov AX, [ESP + 4]; get i
add AX, [ESP + 8]; add j
sub AX, [ESP + 12]; subtract parm. 3
(1) from sum
ret 12
Test ENDP
```

### **Local Variables**

- Local variables are dynamic data whose values must be preserved over the lifetime of the procedure, but not beyond its termination.
- At the termination of the procedure, the current environment disappears and the previous environment must be restored.
- Space for local variables can be reserved by subtracting the required number of bytes from ESP.
- Offsets from ESP are used to address local variables.

### **Local Variables**

Pseudo-code (Java-like) **Assembly Language** Test PROC push EBP mov EBP, ESP sub ESP, 4 void Test(int i){ push EAX int k; mov DWORD PTR [EBP-4], 9 mov EAX, [EBP + 8] k = i+9;add [EBP-4], EAX . . . . . . pop EAX mov ESP, EBP pop EBP ret 4 **Test ENDP** 

### Summary

- Procedure Named block of executable code
  - CALL: call a procedure, push return address on top of stack
  - RET: pop the return address and return from procedure
  - Preserve registers across procedure calls
- Runtime stack LIFO structure Grows downwards
  - Holds return addresses, saved registers, etc.
  - PUSH insert value on top of stack, decrement ESP
  - POP remove top value of stack, increment ESP
- Use the Irvine32.lib library for standard I/O
  - Include Irvine32.inc to make procedure prototypes visible
  - You can learn more by studying Irvine32.asm code