Introduction to Operating Systems

Project 1B: Linux kernel debugging (KGDB) and profiling (PERF)

Deadline:

2020-10-30 (Fri) 23:59:59

Q&A:

If you have any questions, please post it on the E3 discussion board, and it will be answered in two days.

Deliverables:

- 1. **Demo video** (5-7 minutes upload to YouTube add link in the first page of the report).
- Report (pdf file with file name of the form OS_Project1B_StudentID.pdf)
 - Screenshots + one explanation paragraph per screenshot.
 - Answers to questions below.
- 3. In the demo video and report, for each screenshot, explain:
 - a. What has been done, and
 - b. The reasoning behind the steps.

<u>Objective:</u> The objective of this project is to help the student to get familiar kernel debugging and profiling. The student will learn the definitions of debugging and profiling, how to prepare its working environment, how to trigger break points and how to profile and interpret the profiling results of kernel functions.

Scope: Understand the concept of kernel debug, kernel profile, and to learn how to prepare the working environment and how to interpret the profiling results.

Table of contents:

- Section 1: Debugging Kernel Functions
- Section 2: Profiling Kernel Functions

Questions to be answered in the report:

- 1. What is a kernel function? What is a system call?
- 2. What is KASLR? What is it for?
- 3. What are GDB's non-stop and all-stop modes?
- 4. Explain what the command echo g > /proc/sysrq-trigger does.
- 5. Questions of section 2.2 (page 23).

Also, in your report, remember to include:

- 6. Do it yourself exercise of Section 1 (page 12).
- 7. **Do it yourself** exercise of Section 2 (page 24).

Useful links:

- Project 1A tutorial: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4l5tG9L6WbQrlvxdfg9KXt0OLxfrwdlu
- How to disable KASLR:
 https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49360506/in-kgdb-i-cannot-set-the-breakpoint
 https://askubuntu.com/questions/964540/gdb-qemu-cant-put-break-point-on-kernel-function-kernel-4-10-0-35
- Linux system calls table: https://filippo.io/linux-syscall-table/
- Linux kernel 4.19.148 source code: https://elixir.bootlin.com/linux/v4.19.148/source
- Examples on KGDB: https://developer.ridgerun.com/wiki/index.php/How to use kgdb
- How to build the perf tool: https://blog.csdn.net/tang05505622334/article/details/103057179
- Notepad ++ compare plugin: http://www.technicaloverload.com/compare-two-files-using-notepad/

If you have any questions, please remember to search online before posting them in the forum.

SECTION 1: DEBUGGING KERNEL FUNCTIONS

Section 1: Debugging kernel functions

In this section, we will debug some basic kernel functions.

NOTE: You need to finish project 1A in order to do this one. If you haven't finished it, please refer to these tutorial videos:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL4l5tG9L6WbQrlvxdfg9KXt0OLxfrwdlu

1. Turn on the Target virtual machine and bypass the kgdb commands in the grub entry. (Refer to Section 4.0.2 in project 1A)



2. We need to disable KASLR from the grub.

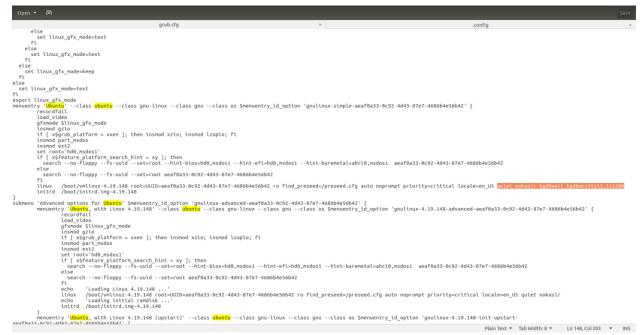
https://stackoverflow.com/questions/49360506/in-kgdb-i-cannot-set-the-breakpoint

Run the command

\$sudo nano /etc/default/grub

And in the GRUB CMDLINE LINUX DEFAULT line, add "nokaslr".

- 3. Update the grub with the command \$sudo update-grub
- 4. In the /boot/grub/grub.cfg file, re-add the commands **kgdbwait kgdboc=ttyS1,115200** (You need to do this step after every time you run the update-grub command).



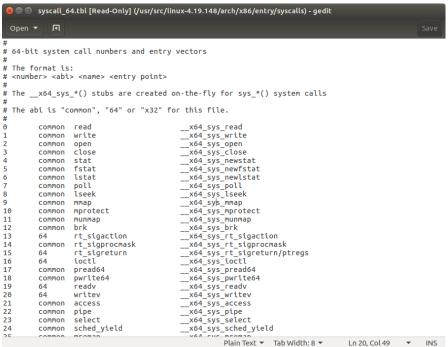
[Screenshot # 1 and #2: Create screenshots showing how you update the grub and the grub.cfg file.]

(This step is optional, but it could be useful for later steps).
 In the Host machine, download again the same kernel source code that you have in the target machine. Download the tar.xz, decompress it and untar it and save it in /usr/src/.



(An online version is here https://elixir.bootlin.com/linux/v4.19.148/source, but beware that it may not be accurate. It is advised to re-download the kernel source code).

- 6. Restart the target machine. It should reach the "Waiting for connection from remote gdb" message.
- 7. KGDB will debug **KERNEL FUNCTIONS**. In the kernel source code folder, check for the **/arch/x86/entry/syscalls/syscall_64.tbl** file. This has the list of the kernel functions with its system call number.



8. We will create a break point for the **mkdir** function, which will be triggered when we create a new folder.

Look online for at least 3 tables showing where each kernel function is implemented. An example is https://filippo.io/linux-syscall-table/, but keep in mind that some functions inside the syscall_64.tbl file might be missing in the online tables. (Check for Linux system calls only, not other OSs, and the tables should be consistent between them).

In the table, we find that the mkdir function is implemented in the **fs/namei.c** file. (These paths are inside the kernel folder).



[Screenshot # 3, #4, #5 and #6: Create a screenshot showing your syscall 64.tbl file (displaying your student ID) and a screenshot showing each syscall table you found online.]

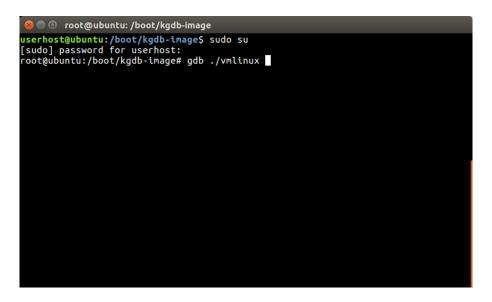
In the namei.c file, check for an entry of the form **SYSCALL_DEFINE[N](mkdir,...)**, where [N] is an integer number. In this case, we find the entry as below

```
a namei.c [Read-Only] (/usr/src/linux-4.19.148/fs) - gedit
         syscall_64.tbl
uone_patn_credite(apatn, uentry);
if (retry_estale(error, lookup_flags)) {
    lookup_flags |= LOOKUP_REVAL;
    goto retry;
                                                                                       namei.c
         return error:
SYSCALL_DEFINE3(mkdirat, int, dfd, const char __user *, pathname, umode_t, mode)
{
         return do_mkdirat(dfd, pathname, mode);
SYSCALL_DEFINE
2(mkdir, const char __user *, pathname, umode_t, mode)
{
         return do_mkdirat(A|T_FDCWD, pathname, mode);
int vfs_rmdir(struct inode *dir, struct dentry *dentry)
         int error = may_delete(dir, dentry, 1);
         if (error)
                   return error;
         if (!dir->i_op->rmdir)
                   return - EPERM;
         dget(dentry);
inode_lock(dentry->d_inode);
         error = -EBUSY;
if (is_local_mountpoint(dentry))
    goto out;
```

From the last picture we see that the mkdir function calls the **do_mkdirat** kernel function, and has the pathname as one of the parameters. We will create a breakpoint in this function.

9. In the host machine, connect KGDB to the target machine (project 1A – Section 4.1) with the commands

cd /boot/kgdb-image sudo su # gdb ./vmlinux



And connect to the target by using (gdb) target remote /dev/ttyS1

```
userhost@ubuntu:/boot/kgdb-image
userhost@ubuntu:/boot/kgdb-image/
userhost@ubuntu:/boot/kgdb-image$ sudo su
[sudo] password for userhost:
root@ubuntu:/boot/kgdb-image# gdb ./vmlinux
GNU gdb (Ubuntu 7.11.1-0ubuntu1~16.5) 7.11.1
Copyright (C) 2016 Free Software Foundation, Inc.
License GPLv3+: GNU GPL version 3 or later <http://gnu.org/licenses/gpl.html>
This is free software: you are free to change and redistribute it.
There is NO WARRANTY, to the extent permitted by law. Type "show copying"
and "show warranty" for details.
This GDB was configured as "x86_64-linux-gnu".
Type "show configuration" for configuration details.
For bug reporting instructions, please see:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/bugs/>.
Find the GDB manual and other documentation resources online at:
<http://www.gnu.org/software/gdb/documentation/>.
For help, type "help".
Type "apropos word" to search for commands related to "word"...
Reading symbols from ./wmlinux...done.
(gdb) target remote /dev/ttyS1
Remote debugging using /dev/ttyS1
Remote debugging using /dev/ttyS1
Remote debugging using /dev/ttyS1
Regdb breakpoint () at kernel/debug/debug_core.c:1086
(gdb) **

**Moderation of the processor of the search for commands for the processor of the processor of
```

Type **continue**, so the target machine boots normally.

[Screenshot # 7: Create a screenshot (showing your student ID) of this step.]

10. In the target machine, we need to send a signal to the host to re-take control in GDB. In a terminal (as root), run the command

echo g > /proc/sysrq-trigger



The Target machine will freeze and in the host machine, you will get access again to GDB.

```
[New Thread 2107]
[New Thread 2105]
[New Thread 2106]
[New Thread 2106]
[New Thread 2108]
[New Thread 2108]
[New Thread 2112]
[New Thread 2123]
[New Thread 2126]
[New Thread 2127]
[New Thread 2127]
[New Thread 2128]
[New Thread 2128]
[New Thread 2162]
[New Thread 2163]
[New Thread 2163]
[New Thread 2163]
[New Thread 2165]
[New Thread 2165]
[New Thread 2165]
[New Thread 2168]
[New Thread 2180]
[New Thread 2180]
[New Thread 22180]
[New Thread 22181]
[New Thread 2201]

Thread 72 received signal SIGTRAP, Trace/breakpoint trap.
[Switching to Thread 2182]
[kgdb_breakpoint () at kernel/debug/debug_core.c:1086
[gdb)
[New Thread 2180]
[New Thr
```

11. We create a breakpoint with the command

(gdb) break do_mkdirat

```
| New Thread 2112 |
| New Thread 2123 |
| New Thread 2126 |
| New Thread 2127 |
| New Thread 2127 |
| New Thread 2128 |
| New Thread 2128 |
| New Thread 2162 |
| New Thread 2163 |
| New Thread 2164 |
| New Thread 2165 |
| New Thread 2168 |
| New Thread 2181 |
| New Thread 2182 |
| New Thread 2181 |
| New Thread 2182 |
| New Thread 2183 |
| New Thread 2183 |
| New Thread 2183 |
| New Thread 2163 |
| New
```

It will create a breakpoint and give to you its ID (in this case is 1).

12. Type **(gdb) continue**, and the target machine will unfreeze.

```
| New Thread 2112 |
| New Thread 2123 |
| New Thread 2126 |
| New Thread 2127 |
| New Thread 2127 |
| New Thread 2128 |
| New Thread 2128 |
| New Thread 2162 |
| New Thread 2162 |
| New Thread 2163 |
| New Thread 2165 |
| New Thread 2165 |
| New Thread 2168 |
| New Thread 2180 |
| New Thread 2180 |
| New Thread 2181 |
| New Thread 2182 |
| New Thread 2182 |
| New Thread 2183 |
| New Thread 2184 |
| New Thread 2185 |
| New Thread 2186 |
| New Thread 2187 |
| New Thread 2187 |
| New Thread 2188 |
| New Thread 2188 |
| New Thread 2189 |
| New Thread 2180 |
| New Thread 2162 |
| New Thread 2162 |
| New Thread 2163 |
| New Thread 2163 |
| New Thread 2164 |
| New Thread 2168 |
| New
```

(When you go back to the target, if it is still frozen, come back to GDB and check if a breakpoint was hit. Type continue until the target machine is responsive again).

13. Now in the Target's desktop, create a directory. This will trigger the break point and the Target machine will freeze again.



14. In the host machine, we see that a breakpoint was hit.

We can check the parameters of this function. By using the command (gdb) print pathname, we should get the path where the new folder was created in the target machine.

```
Make breakpoint pending on future shared library load? (y or [n]) n (gdb) break do_mkdirat
Breakpoint 1 at 0xffffffff812c2450: file fs/namei.c, line 3827.
(gdb) continue
Continuing.

[New Thread 2211]
[New Thread 2214]
[Switching to Thread 459]

Thread 192 hit Breakpoint 1, do_mkdirat (dfd=-100,
    pathname=0x20264c0 "/tmp/vmware-root", mode=448) at fs/namei.c:3827

3827 {
(gdb) continue
Continuing.
[New Thread 2221]
[Switching to Thread 459]

Thread 512 hit Breakpoint 1, do_mkdirat (dfd=-100,
    pathname=0x767b4c00f0b0 "/home/usertest/Desktop/Untitled Folder", mode=511)
    at fs/namei.c:3827

3827 {
(gdb) print pathname
S1 = 0x7f7b4c00f0b0 "/home/usertest/Desktop/Untitled Folder"
(gdb) |
```

[Screenshot # 8: Create a screenshot showing the pathname parameter value. (It should include your student ID)]

15. Type (gdb) continue until the folder is created successfully.



[Screenshot # 9: Create a screenshot showing both virtual machines, the Host already passed all the continues, and the Target with the new folder created].

A video showing all the steps in this section can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-RgDwHOIPk

16. [Do it yourself] Select another function from the syscall_64.tbl table, look for where it is implemented and create your own scenario to trigger it.

Required to explain in both the report and in the video:

- a. Which function you selected.
- b. The file that contains it (with its path).
- c. The kernel function that is called.
- d. Which parameters the kernel function has.
- e. Be creative on how to trigger it. If you need to create a c program to trigger it, feel free to do so.

Requirements:

- a. The Target machine **must be totally on** and responsive before hitting the breakpoint.
- b. You must display the value of at least one of the parameters that the function receives.
- c. You must include at least 6 screenshots showing:
 - i. That the machine was on and responsive [Screenshot # 10],
 - ii. What is your scenario and how to trigger it [Screenshot # 11 #12],
 - iii. How do you create the break point [Screenshot # 13],
 - iv. The host machine hitting the break point, and the value of at least one parameter [Screenshot # 14], and
 - v. The Target machine working again, with the action totally finished [Screenshot # 15].

SECTION 2: PROFILING KERNEL FUNCTIONS

Section 2: Profiling Kernel functions

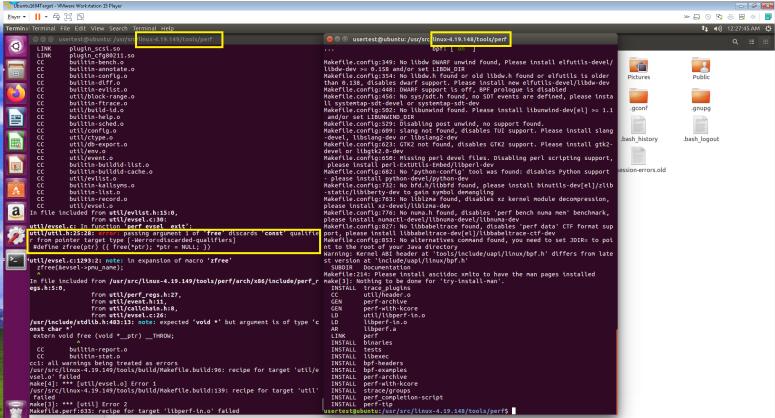
In this section, we will install the required tool to profile the kernel, and proceed to show how to profile and interpret some example functions.

AT THIS POINT, YOU CAN TURN OFF THE HOST MACHINE.

Section 2.0: (IMPORTANT) Perf source code patching

NOTE:

A problem with kernels 4.19.149 - 150 - 151 - 152 source code was recently found that prevents to successfully build the perf tool.



Git comments:

This problem was discovered by the official developers on Sept. 29-30/2020:

- https://lkml.org/lkml/2020/9/29/2330
- https://lkml.org/lkml/2020/9/30/1024

Solutions:

There are two official solutions for this problem:

 Use kernel 4.19.148: <u>https://cdn.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/linux-4.19.148.tar.xz</u>

 This solution requires Section 2 and Section 3 of project 1A.

2. In the affected kernels, go to linux-4.19.149/tools/perf/util/evsel.c. Locate the following function:

void perf_evsel__exit(struct perf_evsel *evsel)
and comment the lines:

zfree(&evsel->pmu_name);

zfree(&evsel->per_pkg_mask);

zfree(&evsel->metric_events);

(Around lines 1293, 1294 and 1295).

```
C:\Users\liwuen\Desktop\perfcomparisons\evsel-149.c - Notepad++ [Administrator]
Eile Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Bun Plugins Window ?
   🔛 evsel-148.c 🗵
                                       oid perf_evsel__close_fd(struct perf_evsel *evsel)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             oid perf_evsel__close_fd(struct perf_evsel *evsel)
                                            for (cpu = 0; cpu < xyarray_max_x(evsel->fd); cpu++)
for (thread = 0; thread < xyarray_max_y(evsel->fd); ++thread) {
    close(fp(evsel, cpu, thread));
    FD(evsel, cpu, thread) = -1;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 for (cpu = 0; cpu < xyarray_max_x(evsel->fd); cpu++)
   for (thread = 0; thread < xyarray_max_y(evsel->fd); ++thread) {
      close(Fp(evsel, cpu, thread));
      FD(evsel, cpu, thread) = -1;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          oid perf_evsel__exit(struct perf_evsel *evsel)
                                    void perf evsel exit(struct perf evsel *evsel)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                assert(list menty (fevreel-mode));
assert(evsel-mode);
assert(evsel-mode);
assert(evsel-mode);
perf evsel free counts(evsel);
perf evsel free counts(evsel);
perf evsel free fol(evsel);
cpu map put(evsel-mount);
thread map put(evsel-mount);
three(fevsel-mode);
tfree(fevsel-mode);
tfree(fevsel-mode);
tfree(fevsel-mode);
                                             assert(list_empty(&evsel->node));
assert(evsel->evlist == NULL);
                                             assert(list_empty(&evsel->node));
assert(vist_evsel)-velist= = NULL);
perf_evsel free_counta(evsel);
perf_evsel free_fa(evsel);
perf_evsel free_fa(evsel);
perf_evsel free_cointa(ersel);
perf_evsel free_cointa(ersel);
cgroup_pur(evsel->cyrp);
cgroup_pur(evsel->cyrp);
cpu_map_pur(evsel->cyrp);
cpu_map_pur(evsel->cyrp);
thread_map_pur(evsel->cyrp);
zfree(&evsel->group_name);
zfree(&evsel->nowp);
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   zfree(&evsel->metric_events);
perf_evsel__object.fini(evsel);
                                            perf_evsel__object.fini(evsel);
                                    void perf_evsel__delete(struct perf_evsel *evsel)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          void perf_evsel__delete(struct perf_evsel *evsel)
                                             perf_evsel__exit(evsel);
free(evsel);
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 perf_evsel__exit(evsel);
free(evsel);
                    void perf_evsel__compute_deltas(struct perf_evsel *evsel, int cpu, int thread, struct perf_counts_values *count)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        void perf_evsel__compute_deltas(struct perf_evsel *evsel, int cpu, int thread, struct perf_counts_values *count)
                                             struct perf counts values tmp;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 struct perf counts values tmp;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 if (!evsel->prev_raw_counts)
    return;
                                             if (!evsel->prev_raw_counts)
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                if (cpu == -1) {
    tmp = evsel->prev_raw_counts->aggr;
    evsel->prev_raw_counts->aggr = *count;
} else {
    tmp = *perf_counts(evsel->prev_raw_counts, cpu, thread);
    *perf_counts(evsel->prev_raw_counts, cpu, thread) = *counts(evsel->prev_raw_counts, cpu, thread) = *counts(evsel->prev_raw_count
                                            if (cpu == -1) {
    tmp = evsel->prev_raw_counts->aggr;
    evsel->prev_raw_counts->aggr = *count;
                                               count->val = count->val - tmp.val;
count->ena = count->ena - tmp.ena;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   count->val = count->val - tmp.val;
count->ena = count->ena - tmp.ena;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            length: 73,770 lines: 2,955 Ln: 1,295 Col: 34 Sel: 85 | 3 Unix (LF) UTF-8 INS
```

After commenting these lines, save the evsel.c file, and run the commands

\$ sudo make

\$ sudo make install

(Please refer to Section 2.1 Project 1B)

After patching this file, the build process should be successful.

```
tipper.a.

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```

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 1. This patch is a **best-effort** solution (so no guarantees that this will solve all the possible problems).
 - If more problems are found later in the affected kernels, please use kernel 4.19.148.
- 2. In order to avoid this situation in the future, **Project 2 and Project 3 will require to use kernel 4.19.148** (so you will have to download and compile kernel 4.19.148).
- For more information, please check the related post on E3 forum: https://e3new.nctu.edu.tw/mod/forum/discuss.php?d=72257

Section 2.1: Profiling tool installation

In this section, we will build the profiling function **perf**.

1. Go to the Linux source code folder, and go to /tools/perf.

```
@ □ usertest@ubuntu:/usr/src/linux-4.19.148/tools/perf

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

usertest@ubuntu:~$ cd /usr/src/linux-4.19.148/
usertest@ubuntu:/usr/src/linux-4.19.1485 cd tools/perf/
usertest@ubuntu:/usr/src/linux-4.19.148/tools/perf$

usertest@ubuntu:/usr/src/linux-4.19.148/tools/perf$

□
```

2. Run the commands

\$sudo make

\$sudo make install

```
e e usertest@ubuntu:/usr/src/linux-4.19.148/tools/perf

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

usertest@ubuntu:~$ cd /usr/src/linux-4.19.148/
usertest@ubuntu:/usr/src/linux-4.19.148$ cd tools/perf/
usertest@ubuntu:/usr/src/linux-4.19.148/tools/perf$ sudo make

usertest@ubuntu:/usr/src/linux-4.19.148/tools/perf$ sudo make
```

3. At this point, the perf tool should be created. Type **\$perf** to verify that the tool was built successfully.

```
🛑 🗊 usertest@ubuntu: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
usertest@ubuntu:~$ perf
 usage: perf [--version] [--help] [OPTIONS] COMMAND [ARGS]
 The most commonly used perf commands are:
                          Read perf.data (created by perf record) and display annotated
   annotate
 code
                          Create archive with object files with build-ids found in perf
   archive
 data file
   bench
                          General framework for benchmark suites
                         Manage build-id cache.
List the buildids in a perf.data file
Shared Data C2C/HITM Analyzer.
Get and set variables in a configuration file.
   buildid-cache
   buildid-list
   config
                         Data file related processing
Read perf.data files and display the differential profile
List the event names in a perf.data file
simple wrapper for kernel's ftrace functionality
Filter to augment the events stream with additional informati
   data
diff
   evlist
   ftrace
   inject
   kallsyms
                          Searches running kernel for symbols
                          Tool to trace/measure kernel memory properties
Tool to trace/measure kvm guest os
    kmem
    kvm
                          List all symbolic event types
Analyze lock events
    list
   lock
   mem
                          Profile memory accesses
                          Run a command and record its profile into perf.data
   record
   report
                          Read perf.data (created by perf record) and display the profi
1e
                          Tool to trace/measure scheduler properties (latencies)
Read perf.data (created by perf record) and display trace out
   sched
   script
put
                          Run a command and gather performance counter statistics
   stat
                         Runs sanity tests.
Tool to visualize total system behavior during a workload System profiling tool.
Define new dynamic tracepoints
   test
   timechart
   top
   probe
                          strace inspired tool
    trace
 See 'perf help COMMAND' for more information on a specific command.
usertest@ubuntu:~$
```

<u>IMPORTANT NOTE:</u> There is a chance that the command **trace** was not generated. If that happens, re-do step 2 and now it should appear in the list of commands.

[Screenshot # 16: Create a screenshot showing the perf tool commands like in the previous screenshot. Your student ID must be visible.]

4. We still need to move the compiled perf tool to a location where all the system can access it. Run the command

\$ sudo cp ./perf /usr/bin/perf

```
😰 🖨 📵 usertest@ubuntu: /usr/src/linux-4.19.148/tools/perf
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
builtin-buildid-list.o
                                                 Makefile.perf
                          builtin-record.c
                                                 MANIFEST
                           builtin-record.o
builtin-c2c.c
                                                 perf
perf-archive
builtin-c2c.o
                           builtin-report.c
builtin-config.c
                           builtin-report.o
                                                 perf-archive.sh
perf.c
builtin-config.o
                           builtin-sched.c
builtin-data.c
                           builtin-sched.o
                                                 perf-completion.sh
builtin-data.o
                           builtin-script.c
builtin-diff.c
                           builtin-script.o
                                                 perf.h
                                                 perf-in.o
builtin-diff.o
                           builtin-stat.c
builtin-evlist.c
                           builtin-stat.o
                                                 perf.o
                           builtin-timechart.c perf-read-vdso.c
builtin-evlist.o
builtin-ftrace.c
builtin-ftrace.o
                                                 perf-sys.h
PERF-VERSION-FILE
                           builtin-timechart.o
                           builtin-top.c
                                                 perf-with-kcore
                           builtin-top.o
builtin.h
builtin-help.c
                                                 perf-with-kcore.sh
                           builtin-trace.c
                                                 pmu-events
builtin-help.o
                           builtin-trace.o
builtin-inject.c
                           builtin-version.c
                                                 python
builtin-inject.o
builtin-kallsyms.c
                           builtin-version.o
                                                 scripts
                           check-headers.sh
                                                 tests
                           command-list.txt
builtin-kallsyms.o
                                                 trace
builtin-kmem.c
                           common-cmds.h
builtin-kmem.o
                           CREDITS
                                                  util
usertest@ubuntu:/usr/src/linux-4.19.148/tools/perf$ sudo cp ./perf /usr/bin/perf
```

At this point, we are ready to profile kernel functions.

Useful links:

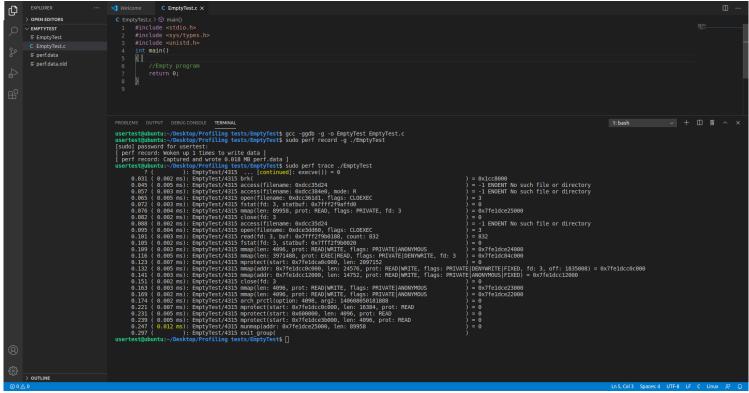
https://blog.csdn.net/tang05505622334/article/details/103057179

Section 2.2: Profiling functions

In this section, we will show how to use **perf**.

Notes:

- Perf will be used to profile c programs that use system calls.
- We need to use special headers in our programs (they depend on each system call).
- Perf must be executed as root (so sudo is necessary).
- The programs used in this section are available in E3.
- 1. Create a folder called **Profiling tests** in your Desktop.
- 2. Create two folders: emptyTest and fileCopyTest.
- 3. For emptyTest, create the following program and call it emptyTest.c



4. Run the commands

\$ gcc -ggdb -g -o emptyTest emptyTest.c

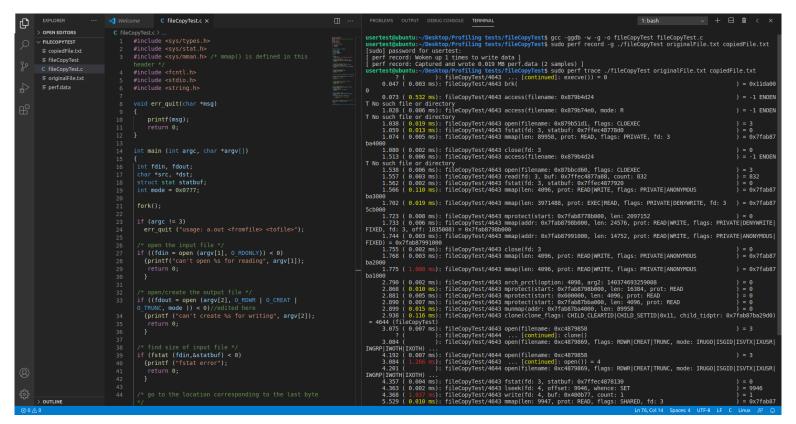
\$ sudo perf record -g ./emptyTest

\$ sudo perf trace ./emptyTest

5. Copy the result of the trace command, and save it in a text file (call it **emptyTest.txt**).

From the previous image, you can see that perf record generates several lines of code for an empty file. These lines are common in any profiled compiled file. We will show how to ignore them.

6. For fileCopyTest, create the following program and call it fileCopyTest.c



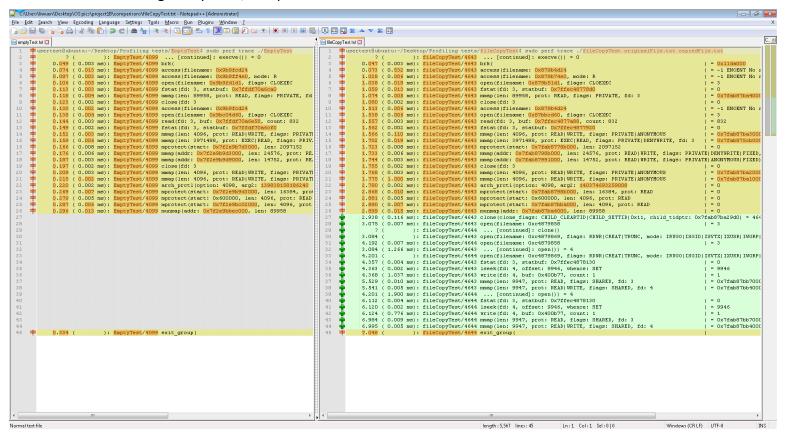
This program copies one text file into another file. It uses the functions **fork, mmap, write,** and **printf.**

- 7. Download the originalFile.txt from E3 and place it in the same folder as fileCopyTest.c.
- 8. Create a new text file and call it copiedFile.txt.
- 9. Run the following commands
 - \$ gcc -ggdb -w -g -o fileCopyTest fileCopyTest.c
 - \$ sudo perf record -g ./fileCopyTest originalFile.txt copiedFile.txt
 - \$ sudo perf trace ./fileCopyTest originalFile.txt copiedFile.txt

[Screenshot # 17 and #18: Create two screenshots showing these files and the trace results, as shown above. Your student ID must be visible.]

Note: In the previous screenshots, we used **visual code** to display the code and the execution results. You are encouraged to use it, but if you wish to use any other developing tool feel free to do so. Just be sure that your student ID is visible in the screenshots.

10. Using Notepad++, compare both files.



<u>Note:</u> In this step we used Notepad++ and its **compare** plugin. In case you cannot install Notepad++ or wish to use another tool that displays the differences between two text files, please feel free to do so, but be sure that the differences are clear enough.

If you want to use Notepad++, here it is explained how to turn on the compare plugin:

http://www.technicaloverload.com/compare-two-files-using-notepad/

[Screenshot # 19: Create a screenshot showing the differences between these files.]

We can see that **fileCopyTest.txt** has some extra lines which are invocations of the clone, mmap, write and open system calls. By using these lines we can calculate the average execution time of each function for this scenario.

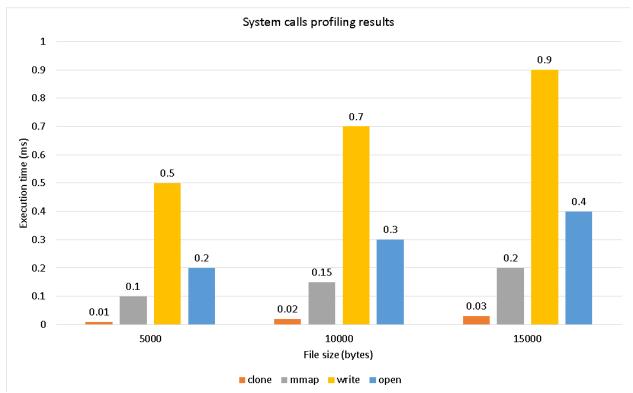
Questions to answer (in both the report and video):

- 1. What are these functions: clone, mmap, write and open? [Screenshot # 19]
- 2. Why is there no **fork** system call? What is the difference between **fork** and **clone?** [Screenshot # 19]
- 3. Will the functions' execution time be longer if the file is bigger? [Screenshot # 19]
- 4. Create a graph of file size (in bytes) vs. execution time (ms) of these four functions, using 3 different file sizes.

How is the behavior of each function? Sort them from slowest to fastest. (Example -from fastest to slowest- : clone, mmap, open, write).

[Screenshot # 20]

An example of the expected graph is shown below



(This is a dummy graph that only shows what is expected: **file size** vs. **execution time.** The real behavior of the functions is not reflected in this example.)

[Do it yourself] In the previous example we showed a comparisons between fork, mmap, open, and write.

Answer the following questions in both your report and video:

1. Perf also has the **report** command:

\$ sudo perf report

Explain:

- a. What is it for? [Screenshot # 21]
- b. For **fileCopyTest**, show and interpret the results. [Screenshot # 21]
- 2. Perf has more commands (please refer to Section 2.1 step 3). Select another command (besides report, trace and record), explain what is it for and show how to use it. [Screenshot # 22]