

Rochester Institute of Technology - Real Time and Embedded Systems

Project 4

Design and implement on the STM32L476 discovery board an embedded, stand-alone program to simulate the workflow in a typical banking environment -- single queue with queuing to a multi-threaded server or three separate server processes. This is a software only project - you will not need anything other than the board and development platform.

Problem Statement:

- Customers enter the bank to transact business on a regular basis. Each new customer arrives every one to four minutes, based on a uniform random distribution. Each new customer enters a single queue of all customers.
- Three tellers are available to service customers in the queue. As tellers become available, customers leave the queue, approach the teller and conduct their business. Each customer requires between 30 seconds and 8 minutes for their transaction with the teller. The time required for each transaction is based on a uniform random distribution.
- The bank is open for business between the hours of 9:00am and 4:00pm. Customers begin entering when the bank opens in the morning, and stop entering when the bank closes in the afternoon. Customers in the queue at closing time remain in the queue until tellers are available to complete their transactions.

Metrics:

To monitor the performance of the business while running the simulation, display in real time:

1. The simulated time.
2. The number of customers waiting.
3. The status of each teller (busy, idle, etc.) and number of customers they have each served.

Metrics are also gathered and reported at the end of the day. The metrics are:

1. ~~The total number of customers served during the day.~~
2. ~~The number of customers served by Teller 1, by Teller 2, and by Teller 3.~~
3. The average time each customer spends waiting in the queue.
4. ~~The average time each customer spends with the teller.~~
5. ~~The average time tellers wait for customers.~~
6. The maximum customer wait time in the queue.
7. The maximum wait time for tellers waiting for customers.
8. The maximum transaction time for the tellers.
9. The maximum depth of the customer queue.
10. Grad student additional metrics:
 - Number of breaks for each of the three tellers
 - Average break time for each of the three tellers
 - Longest break time for each of the three tellers
 - Shortest break time for each of the three tellers

You can use UART2 to display the metrics and information in the terminal.

Design Constraints:

- You are free to use any RTOS supported concurrency mechanism to implement this lab. Be sure to describe your selected architecture in your lab report. It is recommended that you fully define the architecture before you begin coding and implementation.
- You may want to use a “MUTEX” to communicate the number of available tellers but other options include RTOS message sending and reply blocking. You need to fully understand what the “MUTEX” provides and how to use it.
- Each teller is to be modeled as an independent THREAD in the RTOS; fully understand how threads are implemented and interoperate with each other.
- The simulation parameters as described in the Problem Statement can be “hard-coded” as internal constants. However, only define those values in one location – a header file is strongly recommended.
- The simulation time is scaled such that 100 milliseconds of absolute clock time represents 1 minute of simulation clock. Therefore, this program will run about 7 hours x 60 minutes /hour * 0.1 seconds / minute.
- The output must be presented in simulation clock time (9 AM through closing time around 4 PM).
- In order to get the simulation timing accurate, it is strongly recommended to use timers to keep track of time elapsed, by waiting for the timer to complete. Using CPU-consuming library functions like usleep, HAL_Delay, or OS_Delay are discouraged. Substantially inaccurate simulations will be penalized.
- It is recommended to use the CubeMX software to generate the initial project skeleton; enable the use of the FreeRTOS, RNG, UART2 device to save time.
- Note: Every FreeRTOS thread requires additional HEAP memory. For each thread that you run, you will need to allocate more HEAP properly.

Graduate Students:

- Include random breaks for each of the tellers.
- Each teller will take a break every 30 to 60 minutes for 1 to 4 minutes. If a teller break time occurs while serving a customer they will go on break as soon as they finish the current customer.
- The next break for a teller occurs from 30 to 60 minutes from when they started their previous break.
- A break can only occur after the completion of the current customer transaction.
- The break timing and duration is based on a random uniform distribution.

Report:

Before coding, you must get approval of your software design. This will take form as a Software Design Document, and must include appropriate diagrams and explanation to cover the following topics:

- Design of the customer queue including randomized customer arrival time and randomized amount of time required at the teller window.
- Description of how you measure the customer metrics
- How you assign a customer to a teller (what is your algorithm?)
- How you measure all teller metrics
- For grad students, describe the design of the break times including how you collect required additional metrics.

The Software Design must be used as the Analysis / Design section of the final project report.

In addition to the demonstration of your project, a brief report is required to describe your design. As to the final project report, refer to the Report Specifications for the required content and format.

Be sure to include one run of your output in your report. Please submit your report as either a Word compatible document or a PDF document in the project dropbox. Do not put it inside a zip file or other archive.

Your source code (the .c files you created along with any .h files) must be included in your electronic submission. Files generated by the compiler do not need to be submitted.

Due Dates:

Refer to the class schedule for the due dates.

Grading Criteria:

- Program Operation and Demo – 40%
 - Hardware setup is orderly and well organized – 10%
 - Demo sheet functions all completed – 30%
 - Demo operates without faults or restarts – 10% (except for POST verification)
- Program Design --- 25%
 - A detailed software design is required as a first deliverable. This is 15 of the 25 points for program design. This needs to be also included in the final report.
 - Proper initialization
 - Correct use of functions (no copy/paste/edit slightly)
 - Separation of hardware related code from pure software (e.g. the results reporting code)
- Source Code Structure and Readability – 10%
 - Appropriate use of white space – 2%
 - Consistent and good indentation – 2%
 - Appropriate comments at the function and paragraph levels (such as a for loop) – 2%
 - Following C style guide (good names, etc.)
- Report Content – 25%
 - Report is at least 2 pages (not counting pictures, cover page, diagrams) – 5%
 - Demonstrates team understands the problem, solution, and technology (hardware and software) – 10%
 - Report contains all required sections per the report guidelines – 10%