

Project 2 Specification

Kernel Module Programming

System Calls, Kernel Module, and Elevator Scheduling

Code Due: Monday, March 15 11:59PM

Project Demos: March 15th to 19th

Purpose

This project introduces you to the nuts and bolts of system calls, kernel programming, concurrency, and synchronization in the kernel. It is divided into three parts.

Part 1: System-call Tracing [5 points]

Write an empty C program, `empty.c`. Then, create a copy of this program called `part1.c` and add exactly four system calls to the program. You will not receive points if the program contains more or fewer than four. The system calls available to your machine can be found within `/usr/include/unistd.h`. Further, you can use the command line tool, `strace`, to intercept and record the system calls called by a process.

To confirm you have added the correct number of system calls, execute the following commands:

```
$ gcc -o empty.x empty.c
$ strace -o empty.trace ./empty.x
```

```
$ gcc -o part1.x part1.c
$ strace -o part1.trace ./part1.x
```

To reduce the length of the output from `strace`, try to minimize the use of other function calls (e.g. `stdlib.h`) in your program.

Note: Using `strace` on an empty C program will produce a number of system calls, so when using `strace` on your `part1` code, it should produce 4 more system calls than that.

Submit `empty.c`, `empty.trace`, `part1.c`, and `part1.trace`.

Part 2: Kernel Module [10 points]

In Unix-like operating systems, time is sometimes specified to be the seconds since the Unix Epoch (January 1st, 1970).

You will create a kernel module called `my_timer` that calls `current_kernel_time()` and stores the time value. `current_kernel_time()` holds the number of seconds and nanoseconds since the Epoch.

When `my_timer` is loaded (using `insmod`), it should create a proc entry called `/proc/timer`.

When `my_timer` is unloaded (using `rmmod`), `/proc/timer` should be removed.

On each read you will use the proc interface to both print the current time as well as the amount of time that's passed since the last call (if valid).

Example usage:

```
$ cat /proc/timer
current time: 1518647111.760933999
```

```
$ sleep 1
$ cat /proc/timer
current time: 1518647112.768429998
elapsed time: 1.007495999
```

```
$ sleep 3
$ cat /proc/timer
current time: 1518647115.774925999
elapsed time: 3.006496001
```

```
$ sleep 5
$ cat /proc/timer
current time: 1518647120.780421999
elapsed time: 5.005496000
```

Part 3: Elevator Scheduler: Crossing the River [55 points]

Your task is to implement a scheduling algorithm for an elevator, farm edition. The elevator can only hold 10 passengers at a time. Each passenger is either carrying a sheep, a wolf, or some grapes (randomly chosen, equally likely). Passengers will appear on a floor of their choosing and always know where they wish to go. For optimization purposes, you can assume most passengers not starting on the first floor are going to the lobby (first floor). Passengers board the elevator in FIFO order. Passengers carrying sheep will not get on if someone carrying a wolf is on board and passengers carrying grapes will not get on if a passenger carrying a sheep is on board. A passenger carrying a wolf will board the elevator even if there are passengers carrying sheep on it and a passenger with a sheep will board even if passengers carrying grapes are on board. Once someone boards the elevator, they may only get off when the elevator arrives at the destination. Passengers will wait on floors to be serviced indefinitely.

Step 1: Kernel Module with an Elevator

Develop a representation of an elevator. In this project, you will be required to support having a maximum load of 10 passengers (this limit can never be exceeded by the elevator). The elevator must wait for 2.0 seconds when moving between floors, and it must wait for 1.0 seconds while loading/unloading passengers. The building has floor 1 as the minimum floor number (lobby) and floor 10 being the maximum floor number. New passengers can arrive at any time and each floor needs to support an arbitrary number of them.

Step 2: Add System Calls

Once you have a kernel module, you must modify the kernel by adding three system calls. These calls will be used by a user-space application to control your elevator and create passengers. You need to assign the system calls the following numbers:

- 335 for `start_elevator()`
- 336 for `issue_request()`
- 337 for `stop_elevator()`

`int start_elevator(void)`

Description: Activates the elevator for service. From that point onward, the elevator exists and will begin to service requests. This system call will return 1 if the elevator is already active, 0 for a successful elevator start, and `-ERRORNUM` if it could not initialize (e.g. `-ENOMEM` if it couldn't allocate memory). Initialize an elevator as follows:

- State: IDLE
- Current floor: 1
- Current load: 0 passengers

`int issue_request(int start_floor, int destination_floor, int type)`

Description: Creates a request for a passenger at `start_floor` that wishes to go to `destination_floor`. `type` is an indicator variable where 0 represents a passenger carrying grape, 1 represents a passenger carrying a sheep, and 2 represents a passenger carrying a wolf. This function returns 1 if the request is not valid (one of the variables is out of range or invalid type), and 0 otherwise.

`int stop_elevator(void)`

Description: Deactivates the elevator. At this point, the elevator will process no more new requests (that is, passengers waiting on floors). However, before an elevator completely stops, it must offload all of its current passengers. Only after the elevator is empty may it be deactivated (state = OFFLINE).

This function returns 1 if the elevator is already in the process of deactivating, and 0 otherwise.

Step 3: /Proc

The module must provide a proc entry named /proc/elevator. Here, you will need to print the following (each labeled appropriately):

- The elevator's movement state:
 - OFFLINE: when the module is installed but the elevator isn't running (initial state)
 - IDLE: elevator is stopped on a floor because there are no more passengers to service
 - LOADING: elevator is stopped on a floor to load and unload passengers
 - UP: elevator is moving from a lower floor to a higher floor
 - DOWN: elevator is moving from a higher floor to a lower floor
- The current floor the elevator is on
- The elevator's current load (passenger count)
- The number of passengers of each type
- The total number of passengers waiting
- The number of passengers serviced

You will also need to print the following for each floor of the building:

- An indicator for whether or not the elevator is on the floor
- The count of the waiting passengers
- For each waiting passenger, a character indicating the passenger type

sample_proc.txt:

Elevator state: UP

Elevator status: 2 wolves, 3 sheep, 0 grapes

Current floor: 4

Number of passengers: 6

Number of passengers waiting: 10

Number passengers serviced: 61

```
[ ] Floor 10: 3  W W S
[ ] Floor 9: 0
[ ] Floor 8: 2  G W
[ ] Floor 7: 0
[ ] Floor 6: 1  S
[ ] Floor 5: 0
[*] Floor 4: 2  W S
[ ] Floor 3: 2  G G
[ ] Floor 2: 0
[ ] Floor 1: 0
```

(W for wolves, S for sheep, G for grapes)

Step 4: Test

Once you've implemented your system calls, you must interact with two provided user-space applications that will allow communication with your kernel module.

producer.c: This program will issue N random requests, specified by input.

consumer.c: This program expects one flag:

- If the flag is --start, then the program must start the elevator
- If the flag is --stop, then the program must stop the elevator

producer.c and consumer.c will be provided to you.

Implementation Requirements

- The list of passengers waiting at each floor and the list of passengers on the elevator must be stored in a linked list, using your own implementation or linux/list.h.
- The passengers must be allocated dynamically using kmalloc.
- The elevator activity must be controlled within a kthread.
- The elevator must use locking around shared data.

Extra Credit

The top elevator scheduler will receive +5 points to their project 2 grade. The metric to optimize is the total number of passengers serviced within a span of time. The next two schedulers will receive +3 points to their project 2 grade.

Project Submission Procedure [30 points]

The following files must be tar'd and submitted on canvas (create a folder for each part and place the files in the corresponding folders):

- README
- Part 1:
 - empty.c
 - part1.c
 - empty.trace
 - part1.trace
- Part 2:
 - my_timer.c
 - Makefile
- Part 3:
 - elevator.c
 - sys_call.c
 - Makefile

****** If you split your code into multiple header/c files, those must also be included in your tar file.

To receive credit for this section, your submission must include everything outlined in the project syllabus.

Demo

You will be required to schedule for a project demonstration. A week before the project is due, registration for the demonstration will open. The presentations will take place between the 15th and 19th. You will be given 15 minutes to present your project. You will be required to demonstrate:

- Project source files
 - System calls, module sources, user-space sources, Makefiles
- Successful run of Part 1
- Successful installation of Part 2
- Properly display `my_timer /proc/timer`
- Successful remove of Part 2
- Successful installation of Part 3
- Execution of an arbitrary number of consumers and producers for 5 minutes
- Information stored in `/proc/elevator` once per second
- Successful removal of Part 3

Any demonstration failing to install a portion of the project successfully during their allotted time will receive a 0 for that portion of the project. Be absolutely sure that you can at least install and remove all kernel modules before attempting to demonstrate. The grader may also choose to question you on project components. You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the project implementation.

Contact person for the project: Christopher Draper