

Multi-Threading

Introduction to Multi-Threading

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Premises

Where are we?

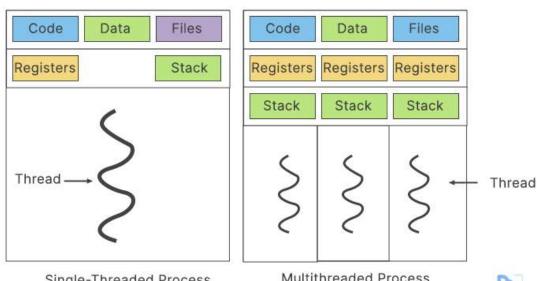
- u01-courseIntroduction
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- u05s01-multiThreading.pdf
- u05s02-posix.pdf
- u05s03-c.pdf
- u05s04-cpp.pdf

Introduction

- C and C++ can run multiple threads in a program
 - > The thread model allows a program to control multiple different flows of operations (scheduled and executed independently) that overlap in time
 - > Each flow of operations is referred to as a **thread**

Processes group resources Threads are units for the scheduling of the CPU



Single-Threaded Process

Multithreaded Process

Introduction

a thread can share its address space with other threads. This means that threads within the same process can access the same memory space, including both shared and private data.

- A thread can share its address space with other threads
 - > Shared data
 - Code section
 - Data section (variables, file descriptors, etc.)
 - Operating system resources (e.g., signals)
 - Private data
 - Program counter and hardware registers
 - Stack, i.e., local variables and execution history

Obvious, since a thread implies its own flow of execution (within the same process)

Program counter and hardware registers: Each thread has its own program counter and set of hardware registers, which are used to keep track of the current instruction being executed and store temporary data.

Stack: This is where local variables and function call information are stored for each thread. Each thread has its own stack, ensuring that local variables and function calls are isolated from other threads.

Introduction

Threads allows

- > Shorter response time
- Shared resources
- > Lower costs for resource management
- Increased scalability

Threads have no implicit data protection

- They are executed in the same address space and the operating system protection is impossible
- ➤ If the threads are not synchronized, access to shared data is **not thread safe**

Thread libraries

- A thread library provides the programmer with the interface to use threads
- The management can be done
 - At user-level (by functions)
 - > At kernel-level (by system calls)
- The most used thread libraries are
 - POSIX threads (Pthreads)

Implemented at user and kernel level

- C and C++
- Windows 32/64

Implemented at kernel-level

Java

Implemented through the thread library of the system hosting Java