Taskserver Design

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System Design & Implementation, 2008



- Design
 - System Components
 - Sawmill Inspired Data Spaces
 - Stack Positioning
- Interface
 - Process management
 - Settings, Statistics & Status
- Statistics
 - Statistics over virtual Filesystem



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System Components

L4 Microkernel

Sigma 0

Anonymous Memory Provider

Syscall Server

Data Space Providers

ELF Loader

Fileserver

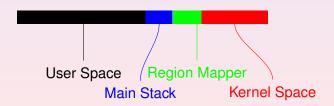
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Sawmill Inspired Data Spaces

- Every address space has got it's own managing thread, called region mapper
- region mapper resides at the end of user address space, just below kernel
- region mapper holds mapping between VM Region and Data Space Provider



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Stack Positioning

- Main program stack is created just below Region Mapper, growing down, towards heap
- For every additional thread, stack space is allocated from heap, surrounded by read only pages to detect overflow
- Thread stacks are created by region mapper



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Process management

- startTask()
- fork()
- exec()
- kill()
- waitTid()
- createThread()
- getThreadStatus()

start Task

```
L4_ThreadId_t startTask(in String path, in String args);
```

- Task server creates a new region mapper inside its new address space using the syscall server
- Task server configures the address space
- Task server sends message to Region mapper, telling it the path of the image to load
- Region mapper asks ELF-Loader (or PE-Loader or whatever) to map image into its address space
- Region mapper starts mapped program inside new thread

fork

```
L4_ThreadId_t fork();
```

- Task server asks memory server to create a new address space
- Task server creates a new region mapper inside new address space
- Task server asks region mappers to map old User space and Stack into new address space
- Task server sends message to region mapper
- Region mapper resumes operation in new address space

exec

L4_ThreadId_t exec(in String path, in String args);

- Task server kills alll threads inside address space except region mapper
- Task server sends message to Region mapper, telling it the path of the image to load
- Region mapper asks ELF-Loader (or PE-Loader or whatever) to map image into its address space
- Region mapper starts mapped program inside new thread

Void kill(in L4_ThreadId_t tid);

- If TID is a region mapper: Kill all threads in address space
- Else kill thread specified by TID
- Suicidal tendencies: Every thread has to kill itself at the end

waitTid

```
L4_Word_t waitTid(in L4_ThreadId_t tid);
```

- Waits for thread specified by tid to terminate
- Returns the thread's exit status
- Status information is stored in region mapper of thread until waitTid() is called

createThread

L4_ThreadId_t createThread();

- createThead() returns global thread id of new thread.
- Task server tells syscall server to create a new thread inside specified address space
- Task server tells region mapper to start thread
- Region mapper creates thead stack and sends start message to thread

getThreadStatus

L4_Word_t getThreadStatus(in L4_ThreadId_t tid);

 Uses schedule() system call to check whether a thread is still alive. Returns the status code which is returned by schedule.

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Settings, Statistics & Status

- setStatisticInterval()
- setTimeslice()
- setPriority()
- setPreemptionDelay()

setStatisticInterval

```
void setStatisticInterval(in L4_Word_t
interval);
```

- interval is specified in milliseconds
- Sets interval in which statistics are collected
- Uses schedule syscall and an ugly hack which uses the total quantum

setTimeslice

```
void setTimeslice(in L4_Word_t timeslice);
```

- timeslice is specified in milliseconds
- Sets length of timeslice

setPriority

L4_Word_t setPriority(in L4_Word_t priority);

Sets priority of thread identified by TID

setPreemptionDelay

```
L4_Word_t setPreemptionDelay(in L4_ThreadId_t tid, in L4_Word_t sensitivePrio, in L4_Word_t maxDelay);
```

Sets preemption delay of thread identified by TID

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Statistics

Collected statistics are accessed via virtual filesystem

Questions?

Please feel free to ask questions or give comments!