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Operating Systems
Writing Assignment

The Dispatcher

The dispatcher is the thing that gives control of the CPU to a process. A dispatcher runs on each core of the CPU. Functions that the dispatcher is responsible for are:

1. Context switches where dispatcher saves the state (context) of a process or thread that was running and then loads either the initial state or saved state of the next process.
2. Switching into user mode.
3. Selecting the proper location in the program that is shown by its state.

To make a computer more time efficient, the dispatcher should be as fast as possible because it called every time a process is switched. During context switches, the dispatcher is idle for a bit of time and therefore, unnecessary context switches should not be done. Dispatch latency is the time it takes the dispatcher to stop one process and start another.