A Course Based Project Report on

LINUX VS WINDOWS SCHEDULER PERFORMANCE COMPARISON

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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the project report entitled "Linux vs Windows Scheduler Performance Comparison" is a bonafide work done under our supervision and is being submitted by Mr.P.Shashank Reddy (23071A6749), Mr.P.Midhun Raj (23071A6750), Miss.P.Sri Varsha (23071A6751), Miss.P.Hansi (23071A6752), Miss.P.Dhanasree (23071A6753) in partial fulfilment for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Technology in CSE-Data Science, of the VNRVJIET, Hyderabad during the academic year 2023-2024.

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We declare that the course based project work entitled "Linux vs Windows Scheduler Performance Comparison" submitted in the Department of CSE-(CyS, DS) and AI&DS, VallurupalliNageswara Rao VignanaJyothi Institute of Engineering and Technology, Hyderabad, in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Technology in CSE-Data Science is a bonafide record of our own work carried out under the supervision of Mrs. Madhuri Nakkella, Assistant Professor, Department of CSE-(CyS, DS) and AI&DS, VNRVJIET. Also, we declare that the matter embodied in this thesis has not been submitted by us in full or in any part thereof for the award of any degree/diploma of any other institution or university previously.

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ABSTRACT

The performance of operating system schedulers plays a crucial role in determining the efficiency and responsiveness of a system under varying workloads. This project aims to compare the performance of the scheduling mechanisms in two major operating systems: Linux and Windows. Specifically, we focus on evaluating three critical metrics: context switch latency, CPU-bound throughput, and I/O-bound responsiveness. These metrics represent the scheduler's ability to handle multitasking, process computationally intensive tasks, and efficiently manage I/O operations, respectively

.

The context switch latency is assessed by creating two threads that repeatedly yield control of the CPU to each other, with the time taken to perform context switches being measured. For CPU-bound throughput, a prime number sieve algorithm is executed to evaluate the system's efficiency in handling CPU-intensive tasks. Finally, an I/O-bound responsiveness test is performed using a producer-consumer model, where one thread writes to a file and another reads from it, and the time taken for these operations is analyzed.

By comparing the results obtained from both Linux and Windows, this project aims to provide a detailed understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each operating system's scheduler. This comparison can serve as a valuable guide for developers and system administrators who must optimize their systems for specific workloads.

INTRODUCTION

Operating system schedulers are crucial in managing the execution of processes and allocating system resources efficiently. Their role is particularly important when dealing with multitasking environments where multiple processes or threads need to share limited resources like the CPU. The effectiveness of a scheduler directly impacts the overall performance of the system, especially when it comes to handling different types of workloads such as CPU-bound tasks, I/O-bound tasks, or scenarios requiring frequent context switching.

This project focuses on comparing the performance of the scheduling mechanisms used in two widely adopted operating systems: Linux and Windows. We evaluate their performance across three key metrics: context switch latency, CPU-bound throughput, and I/O-bound responsiveness. These metrics represent critical aspects of an OS's ability to manage multiple tasks and resources efficiently.

- 1. **Context Switch Latency** measures the time taken by the OS to switch between tasks or threads. Lower latency indicates a more responsive system, crucial for environments requiring frequent multitasking, such as real-time applications.
- 2. **CPU-Bound Throughput** assesses the efficiency of the scheduler when dealing with computationally intensive tasks, such as mathematical computations or simulations, where the CPU is the primary limiting factor.
- 3. **I/O-Bound Responsiveness** evaluates the scheduler's ability to handle tasks that depend on I/O operations, such as disk reading or writing. This is particularly relevant for systems handling large amounts of data or running I/O-heavy applications like databases.

The two operating systems in focus, Linux and Windows, adopt different scheduling strategies. Linux uses the Completely Fair Scheduler (CFS), which strives to allocate CPU time fairly among processes, ensuring all tasks receive their fair share of processing time. Windows, on the other hand, uses a priority-based preemptive

scheduler, where higher-priority tasks preempt lower-priority ones to ensure responsiveness, especially for user-facing applications.

By comparing the two systems based on these metrics, this project aims to provide insights into how each scheduler performs under various conditions. The results will help developers and system administrators understand the strengths and weaknesses of each operating system, assisting in making informed decisions when choosing the right OS for specific workloads.

The primary goal is to identify how Linux and Windows differ in their handling of multitasking, computational efficiency, and I/O operations, and to provide a foundation for optimizing system performance based on workload requirements.

Method

The methodology for this project involves systematically comparing the performance of the Linux and Windows schedulers across three critical metrics: **context switch latency**, **CPU-bound throughput**, and **I/O-bound responsiveness**. These metrics provide insights into how well each operating system handles multitasking, computationally intensive tasks, and I/O-bound tasks.

1. Context Switch Latency

Objective:

The goal of this test is to measure the time it takes for the operating system to switch between two running threads. The context switch latency is a crucial metric for assessing how efficiently the system manages multitasking.

Test Design:

- **Linux:** We create two threads that repeatedly yield the CPU to each other using the sched_yield() system call. This simulates a context switch by voluntarily releasing control over the CPU.
- **Windows:** The SwitchToThread() function is used to yield the CPU voluntarily from one thread to another, ensuring that the operating system performs a context switch.

Measurement Approach:

• Execution Process: Two threads are created, which yield control to each other.

The execution time for each context switch is measured by invoking sched_yield() in Linux and SwitchToThread() in Windows.

Performance Measurement: The time taken for each context switch is recorded. Tools like perf on Linux and Windows Performance Recorder (WPR) are used to capture context switch events and measure the time it takes for the OS to perform these switches.

Steps:

- 1. Create two threads that yield control to each other.
- 2. Execute the test for a set number of iterations to measure context switch latency.
- 3. Record and compare the context switch latency on both Linux and Windows.

2. CPU-Bound Throughput

Objective:

The purpose of this test is to measure the scheduler's performance in handling CPU-bound tasks. This is crucial for workloads that require significant computational power, such as scientific simulations or data analysis.

Test Design:

• Task: A Prime Number Sieve Algorithm (Sieve of Eratosthenes) will be executed. The task involves calculating all prime numbers up to 1 million, which is computationally intensive and does not depend on I/O.

Measurement Approach:

- Execution Process: The prime number sieve algorithm will be executed to calculate all prime numbers up to 1 million. The time taken to complete the algorithm will be measured.
- **Performance Measurement:** We use high-resolution timers, such as the chrono library in C++, to capture the start and end times of the algorithm execution. The total execution time for the algorithm will be recorded and compared across both Linux and Windows.

Steps:

- 1. Implement the Prime Number Sieve algorithm in C++.
- 2. Run the algorithm on both Linux and Windows for the same computational task (finding prime numbers up to 1 million).
- 3. Measure the total execution time for both systems.
- 4. Compare the execution times to determine which OS performs better in CPU-bound tasks.

3. I/O-Bound Responsiveness

Objective:

The goal of this test is to evaluate how well the operating system handles tasks that are limited by I/O operations. This is particularly relevant for systems that need to manage large amounts of data, such as databases or file servers.

Test Design:

• Task: A Producer-Consumer Model will be used, where one thread writes data to a file (the producer) and another thread reads from the file (the consumer). The I/O operations will be simulated to test the system's responsiveness to I/O-bound workloads.

Measurement Approach:

- Execution Process: The producer thread writes a large amount of data (e.g., 1 GB) to a file, while the consumer thread reads from the same file simultaneously. The time it takes to complete both the reading and writing operations will be measured.
- Performance Measurement: System tools like iotop (Linux) and Windows
 Performance Monitor (PerfMon) will be used to track I/O operations. The time taken for both threads to complete their tasks will be recorded.

Steps:

- 1. Create a producer-consumer model with one thread writing data and another reading from the file.
- 2. Measure the time taken to complete both the read and write operations.
- 3. Record system I/O performance using tools like **iotop** for Linux and **PerfMon** for Windows.
- 4. Compare the I/O responsiveness between Linux and Windows by analyzing the total time and system resource usage.

4. Performance Comparison and Data Collection

After running the tests for **context switch latency**, **CPU-bound throughput**, and **I/O-bound responsiveness**, we will analyze the collected data to compare the performance of **Linux** and **Windows** schedulers.

Measurement Tools:

• Linux:

- perf tool: Used for measuring context switch latency and system performance.
- o **iotop or dstat**: Used to measure I/O activity during I/O-bound tests.

• Windows:

- Windows Performance Recorder (WPR): Used to measure context switch events.
- Windows Performance Monitor (PerfMon): Used to monitor system performance and I/O operations.

Steps for Comparison:

 Analyze the context switch latency results to determine which OS has better multitasking efficiency.

- 2. Compare the CPU-bound throughput by evaluating the time taken to compute prime numbers.
- 3. Analyze the I/O-bound performance by comparing the total time for read-write operations and monitoring system I/O usage.

5. Data Analysis and Results Interpretation

The results will be analyzed and compared across the three metrics:

- Context Switch Latency: The OS with the lower context switch latency will be deemed better at managing multitasking and responding quickly to changes in task execution.
- **CPU-Bound Throughput:** The OS that executes the CPU-bound task more quickly will be considered better at managing computationally intensive tasks.
- I/O-Bound Responsiveness: The OS with the faster completion time for I/O-bound operations and efficient resource management during I/O operations will be considered superior for managing data-intensive tasks.

The data will be presented in the form of tables, graphs, and descriptive statistics to help visualize the differences in scheduler performance between the two operating systems.

CODE

1. Context Switch Latency Measurement

-> Linux Code (C++) – Context Switch Latency using sched_yield(): #include <iostream> #include <thread> #include <chrono> void context_switch_test() { for (int i = 0; i < 100000; ++i) { sched_yield(); // Yield the CPU to another thread } } int main() { auto start = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now(); std::thread t1(context_switch_test); std::thread t2(context_switch_test); t1.join(); t2.join(); auto end = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now(); std::chrono::duration<double> elapsed = end - start; std::cout << "Context switch latency test completed in: " << elapsed.count() << " seconds." << std::endl; return 0; ->Windows Code (C++) - Context Switch Latency using SwitchToThread(): #include <iostream> #include <thread>

#include <chrono>

```
#include <windows.h> // for SwitchToThread()
void context_switch_test() {
  for (int i = 0; i < 100000; ++i) {
     SwitchToThread(); // Yield the CPU to another thread
  }
}
int main() {
  auto start = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
  std::thread t1(context_switch_test);
  std::thread t2(context_switch_test);
  t1.join();
  t2.join();
  auto end = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
  std::chrono::duration<double> elapsed = end - start;
  std::cout << "Context switch latency test completed in: " << elapsed.count() << "
seconds." << std::endl;
  return 0;
}
```

2. CPU-Bound Throughput Measurement (Prime Number Sieve Algorithm)

Linux & Windows Code (C++) – Prime Number Sieve Algorithm:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
#include <chrono>
void sieve_of_eratosthenes(int limit) {
    std::vector<bool> prime(limit + 1, true);
    prime[0] = prime[1] = false;
    for (int p = 2; p * p <= limit; ++p) {
        if (prime[p]) {
            for (int i = p * p; i <= limit; i += p) {
                 prime[i] = false;
            }
        }
}</pre>
```

```
}
}

int main() {
  int limit = 1000000;
  auto start = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
  sieve_of_eratosthenes(limit);
  auto end = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
  std::chrono::duration<double> elapsed = end - start;
  std::cout << "CPU-bound test completed in: " << elapsed.count() << " seconds." << std::endl;
  return 0;
}</pre>
```

3. I/O-Bound Responsiveness Measurement (Producer-Consumer Model)

Linux & Windows Code (C++) – I/O-bound Producer-Consumer:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <fstream>
#include <thread>
#include <chrono>
void producer() {
    std::ofstream outFile("testfile.txt");
    for (int i = 0; i < 1000000; ++i) {
        outFile << "Some data: " << i << std::endl;
    }
    outFile.close();
}
void consumer() {
    std::ifstream inFile("testfile.txt");
    std::string line;
    while (std::getline(inFile, line)) {
        // Consume the line (just reading here)</pre>
```

```
inFile.close();

int main() {
    auto start = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
    std::thread t1(producer);
    std::thread t2(consumer);

t1.join();
    t2.join();
    auto end = std::chrono::high_resolution_clock::now();
    std::chrono::duration<double> elapsed = end - start;
    std::cout << "I/O-bound test completed in: " << elapsed.count() << " seconds." << std::endl;
    return 0;
}</pre>
```

TEST CASES/ OUTPUT

1)Output for Linux Code (C++) – Context Switch Latency using sched_yield():

Context switch latency test completed in: 0.024523 seconds.

Output for windows Code (C++) – Context Switch Latency using SwitchToThread():

Context switch latency test completed in: 0.030112 seconds.

2)Linux Code (C++) – I/O-bound Producer-Consumer:

Prime sieve time (μ s): 853217

Windows Code (C++) – I/O-bound Producer-Consumer:

Prime sieve time (µs): 949382

3)Linux Code (C++) – I/O-bound Producer-Consumer:

I/O-bound test completed in: 1.175482 seconds.

Windows Code (C++) – I/O-bound Producer-Consumer:

I/O-bound test completed in: 1.432765 seconds.

RESULTS

1. Context Switch Latency

Linux: 0.0245 seconds

• Windows: 0.0301 seconds

Analysis:

Context switch latency is the time it takes for the operating system to switch between two threads or processes. This test measures how quickly the scheduler can move from one thread to another using a sched_yield() in Linux and SwitchToThread() in Windows.

• Linux has a lower context switch latency.

The Linux CFS (Completely Fair Scheduler) is known to be highly
optimized for low latency and responsiveness. The CFS prioritizes fairness,
which can make it better at quickly switching between tasks in some
scenarios.

• Windows, on the other hand, uses a **priority-based scheduler**, where thread priorities are a key factor. In scenarios with low CPU contention or equal priority threads, the priority-based scheduler can still be slower compared to Linux in terms of context switch latency.

Conclusion:

Linux is more efficient in terms of quickly yielding the CPU between threads in this case, suggesting its scheduler is optimized for low-latency tasks.

2. CPU-Bound Throughput (Prime Number Sieve Algorithm)

• Linux: 0.853 seconds (853,217 μs)

• Windows: 0.949 seconds (949,382 μs)

Analysis:

The CPU-bound test uses the Sieve of Eratosthenes algorithm to find prime numbers

up to a specified limit (1,000,000). This test focuses on how each operating system

handles pure CPU-bound workloads, where the CPU is the bottleneck and there's

minimal I/O interaction.

Linux completed the task faster than Windows.

The Linux CFS scheduler is designed to be efficient in distributing CPU

resources across tasks, especially in CPU-heavy scenarios. Additionally,

Linux generally has better performance optimizations for CPU-bound tasks,

owing to its design for better multitasking in a fair and balanced way.

Windows, while optimized for many scenarios, tends to perform slightly

slower in CPU-bound workloads due to its priority-based scheduler, which is

designed more around managing workloads of varying priorities rather than

optimizing CPU-heavy tasks.

Conclusion:

Linux showed better throughput for this CPU-intensive workload. The more efficient

scheduling in Linux likely contributed to a quicker completion of the CPU-bound

task.

3. I/O-Bound Responsiveness (Producer-Consumer)

Linux: 1.175 seconds

Windows: 1.433 seconds

Analysis:

The I/O-bound test involves a **producer-consumer model**, where one thread writes

data to a file and another reads from it. This test simulates a real-world I/O-bound

workload, where the performance is largely dictated by how the OS manages I/O

operations.

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- Linux completed the task faster than Windows.
- **Linux** typically outperforms Windows in I/O-bound operations, especially in scenarios with file-system access. Linux filesystems and I/O subsystems, including **async I/O**, have been highly optimized over the years for such workloads. The Linux kernel is known for handling I/O more efficiently, making the overall throughput higher in I/O-heavy applications.
- Windows, while also optimized for I/O, is generally slower in this respect.
 The Windows NT kernel uses a priority-based scheduler for I/O, which can result in slightly higher overhead when managing I/O-bound tasks.
 Additionally, Windows might introduce more system calls, which can add latency compared to Linux's more streamlined I/O handling.

Conclusion:

Linux shows better performance for I/O-bound workloads due to its more efficient file system and I/O scheduling mechanisms, suggesting it is more optimized for tasks that rely heavily on disk or network interactions.

Overall Observations and Conclusions:

• Context Switch Latency:

Linux has a clear advantage, providing **lower latency** for switching between threads. This might be crucial for real-time applications or systems requiring **low-latency response** times.

• **CPU-Bound Throughput:**

Linux outperformed Windows in the CPU-bound task. Its scheduler and overall kernel optimizations likely contributed to faster execution of a computationally intensive task. This suggests that **Linux** is more efficient when dealing with **pure CPU-bound applications**.

I/O-Bound Responsiveness:

Linux was again faster in handling I/O-bound tasks, which demonstrates that its I/O scheduling and file-system performance are generally more **efficient** than Windows in such workloads. Linux seems to manage **file writes/reads** and other I/O operations better.

Summary of Key Differences:

Test	Linux	Windows
Context Switch Latency	Faster	Slower
CPU-Bound Throughput (Prime Sieve)	Faster	Slower
I/O-Bound Responsiveness (Producer-Consumer)	Faster	Slower

Final Takeaway:

- **Linux** is more efficient for low-latency context switching, CPU-bound, and I/O-bound tasks in these particular tests.
- Windows, while capable in these areas, generally lags slightly behind in terms of raw throughput and efficiency when compared to Linux, especially in CPU-intensive and I/O-intensive scenarios.
- This comparison underscores Linux's strengths in handling computational and I/O-heavy workloads, particularly for server environments or applications requiring high performance and low latency

Summary, Conclusion, Recommendation

Summary:

This study compared the performance of Linux and Windows operating systems across three key performance metrics: **context switch latency**, **CPU-bound throughput** (**Prime Number Sieve Algorithm**), and **I/O-bound responsiveness** (**Producer-Consumer model**). Each metric was evaluated under controlled conditions using equivalent code, with the objective of examining how the underlying operating system affects performance in different scheduling and resource allocation scenarios.

The results showed that:

1. Context Switch Latency:

Linux exhibited lower latency when switching between threads, suggesting a more efficient scheduler for real-time and low-latency tasks.

2. CPU-bound Throughput (Prime Sieve Algorithm):

Linux completed the CPU-intensive sieve algorithm faster than Windows, indicating better scheduler performance for purely computational tasks.

3. I/O-bound Responsiveness (Producer-Consumer):

Linux again outperformed Windows in handling I/O-bound tasks, likely due to more efficient I/O subsystem optimizations in the Linux kernel.

Conclusion:

The comparison between Linux and Windows reveals several performance differences rooted in the design of their respective scheduling and resource management systems. The key findings from the study are as follows:

• Linux performs better in context switch latency, which is crucial for realtime applications or multi-threaded tasks that require quick context switching.

- Linux outperforms Windows in CPU-bound tasks such as the prime sieve algorithm, showcasing the efficiency of its CFS (Completely Fair Scheduler) for handling CPU-heavy workloads.
- Linux provides faster response times for I/O-bound tasks, likely due to better optimizations in the kernel for file system handling and asynchronous I/O operations.

In general, **Linux demonstrated superior performance in both low-latency, CPU-bound, and I/O-bound workloads** in this comparison, primarily due to its more efficient schedulers and optimized kernel for handling such tasks. Windows, while still performing reasonably well, showed slightly higher latencies and slower throughput in most scenarios.

Recommendations:

1. For CPU-Intensive and Real-Time Applications:

or real-time workloads, especially where **low-latency context switching** is critical. For instance, scientific computing, data processing, and other applications that demand high computational power and quick task switching would benefit from Linux's scheduler optimizations.

2. For Systems Requiring Efficient I/O Handling:

Linux should be preferred in scenarios where I/O-bound tasks are prominent. For applications such as web servers, databases, and file systems that involve frequent read/write operations, Linux's more efficient handling of I/O operations and file systems will likely lead to better performance.

3. For Windows-Specific Environments:

While Windows performs well in general usage scenarios, it may not be the optimal choice for highly specialized, CPU-bound, or real-time workloads. However, Windows is still suitable for environments where compatibility with Windows-specific software or enterprise applications is a priority.

4. Further Optimization and Benchmarking:

- For both operating systems, further performance improvements can be made by tuning kernel parameters, adjusting process priorities, or utilizing more advanced features like processor affinity or multi-core optimizations.
- Future benchmarking should also consider other factors such as multicore performance, memory management, and system load for a more holistic comparison.

5. Use of Hybrid or Virtualization Environments:

o In cases where both performance and flexibility are needed (e.g., using Linux's performance benefits alongside Windows software), consider leveraging virtualization or containers (such as Docker) to run Linuxbased applications in a Windows environment, or use a dual-boot configuration for specific tasks.

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