EECS 678 - Lab 08

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`http://people.eecs.ku.edu/~vvivekan/lab/signals/signals.html`

1. *There are two special signals (KILL and STOP) which are not handled by the process they are sent to. When a KILL or STOP signal is generated, the operating system itself handles this signal and kills or stops the appropriate process. Considering what you learned in today's lab, speculate as to why the system designers chose to include signals which are handled solely by the operating system.*

   Having KILL and STOP handled by the OS rather than the program means that it is possible to kill unresponsive programs. This also helps to protect against rogue programs.

2. *What benefit do we gain from using the pause system call as opposed to an infinite while loop?*

   The infinite loop uses system resources to keep checking if the condition necessary to leave the loop is met. Using pause avoids using system resources by simply waiting for the OS to inform the program that it is ready to go.

3. *Why do we mask other signals while inside the signal handler?*

   So that the signal handler isn't interrupted while processing the signal that it was assigned to handle.

4. *When we implement the time out, we do not mask the SIGALRM signal. Why?*

   So that the alarm signal can be used. If we were to mask it, if the alarm triggers, it wouldn't know how to be handeled.