AOS Assignment 2

Adding and testing a new system call to Linux kernel

Common Steps:

1. Download the kernel with version 4.19.210.

```
variant@sowmya: ~
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 404 Not Found
2021-10-16 03:15:12 ERROR 404: Not Found.
 /ariant@sowmya:~$ wget https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/linux-4.19.
210.tar.xz
 -2021-10-16 03:18:02-- https://www.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/linux-4.1
9.210.tar.xz
Resolving www.kernel.org (www.kernel.org)... 145.40.73.55, 2604:1380:40e1:4800:
:1
Connecting to www.kernel.org (www.kernel.org)|145.40.73.55|:443... connected.
301 Moved Permanently
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 301 Moved Permanently
Location: https://mirrors.edge.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/linux-4.19.210.
tar.xz [following]
--2021-10-16 03:18:03-- https://mirrors.edge.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/
linux-4.19.210.tar.xz
Resolving mirrors.edge.kernel.org (mirrors.edge.kernel.org)... 147.75.95.133, 2
604:1380:3000:1500::1
Connecting to mirrors.edge.kernel.org (mirrors.edge.kernel.org)|147.75.95.133|:
443... connected.
HTTP request sent, awaiting response... 200 OK
Length: 103207592 (98M) [application/x-xz]
Saving to: 'linux-4.19.210.tar.xz'
linux-4.19.210.tar. 100%[==================] 98.43M 1.89MB/s
2021-10-16 03:19:25 (1.21 MB/s) - 'linux-4.19.210.tar.xz' saved [103207592/1032
07592]
 /ariant@sowmya:~$
```

2. Extract the content of the downloaded tar file to the directory /usr/src

```
Q =
                                             variant@sowmya: ~
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/trace.h
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-debug.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-init.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-irqfd.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-its.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-kvm-device.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-mmio-v2.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-mmio-v3.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-mmio.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-mmio.h
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-v2.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-v3.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic-v4.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/arm/vgic/vgic.h
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/async_pf.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/async_pf.h
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/coalesced_mmio.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/coalesced_mmio.h
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/eventfd.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/irqchip.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/kvm_main.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/vfio.c
linux-4.19.210/virt/kvm/vfio.h
linux-4.19.210/virt/lib/
linux-4.19.210/virt/lib/Kconfig
linux-4.19.210/virt/lib/Makefile
linux-4.19.210/virt/lib/irqbypass.c
variant@sowmya:~$
```

Go to the /usr/src/linux-4.19.210 directory

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210 Q = - 
variant@sowmya:-$ cd /usr/src
variant@sowmya:/usr/src$ ls
linux-4.19.210 linux-hwe-5.11-headers-5.11.0-37
linux-headers-5.11.0-37-generic linux-hwe-5.8-headers-5.8.0-43
linux-headers-5.8.0-43-generic
variant@sowmya:/usr/src$ cd linux-4.19.210
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$
```

- 4. Do required changes and run make command to compile the kernel sudo make
- 5. After compiling the kernel, install the kernel sudo make modules install install

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make -j3
[sudo] password for variant:
    DESCEND objtool
    CALL scripts/checksyscalls.sh
    CHK include/generated/compile.h
    Building modules, stage 2.
Kernel: arch/x86/boot/bzImage is ready (#13)
    MODPOST 4990 modules
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make modules_install install
[sudo] password for variant:
Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for variant:
INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aegis128-aesni.ko
INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aesini-intel.ko
```

6. Restart and while restarting press the shift button to get grub menu. Select the required kernel from the grub menu.

Ques 1: Write syscall to print welcome message to Linux logs

1.Create the directory sowmyahello in /usr/src/linux-4.19.210 folder

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210/sowmyahello

variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo mkdir sowmyahello

variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ cd sowmyahello

variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210/sowmyahello$ ls

variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210/sowmyahello$ vi sowmyahello.c
```

2. Create sowmyahello.c file in the directory and add the below code.

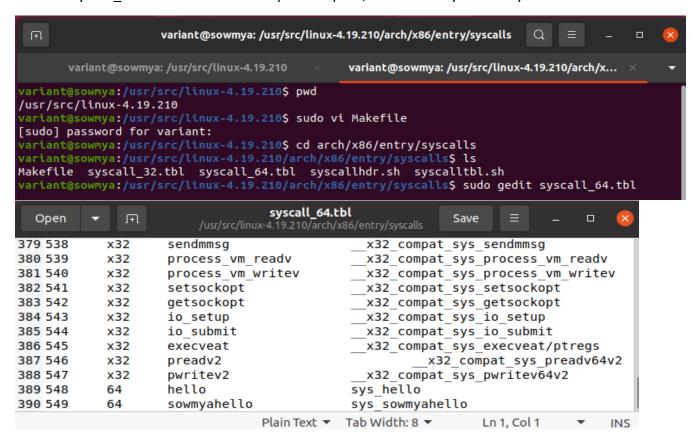
```
variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210/sowmyahello Q = - □ 
#include<linux/kernel.h>
asmlinkage int sys_sowmyahello(void)
{
    printk("Hello Sowmya!!!");
    return 0;
}
```

3. Create a Makefile in the same directory and add the below line

4. In the Makefile of the kernel folder add the name of the system call you are creating

```
variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210 \times sudo vi Makefile [sudo] password for variant: variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$
```

5. In the syscall 64.tbl file in the below specified path, add the entry of new system call.



7.In the syscalls.h header file, add the signature of the system call

```
variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210/include/linux Q = - D 
variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210/includ... × variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210/includ... × 
variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210/arch/x86/entry/syscalls$ cd ../../...
variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ pwd
/usr/src/linux-4.19.210
variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ cd include/linux
variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210/include/linux$ sudo gedit syscalls.h
```

8. After doing above steps, compile the kernel.

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src$ cd linux-4.19.210/
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ ls
arch
           CREDITS
                                            MAINTAINERS
                                                             Module.symvers security
block
                                  Kconfig
                                            Makefile
                                                                                          System.map
                                                                                                         vmlinux-gdb.py
                                                                             sowmyagetpid tools
built-in.a Documentation include kernel
                                                             README
                                                                                                         vmlinux.o
                                            modules.builtin samples
           drivers
                                  LICENSES modules.order
COPYING
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make -j3
[sudo] password for variant:
 DESCEND objtool
         scripts/checksyscalls.sh
 CALL
```

9.Install the changes made to the kernel

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make -j3
[sudo] password for variant:
    DESCEND objtool
    CALL scripts/checksyscalls.sh
    CHK include/generated/compile.h
    Building modules, stage 2.
Kernel: arch/x86/boot/bzImage is ready (#13)
    MODPOST 4990 modules
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make modules_install install
[sudo] password for variant:
Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for variant:
INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aegis128-aesni.ko
INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aes-x86_64.ko
INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aesni-intel.ko
```

- 10. Restart the system
- 11. Test the system call. The number assigned to first system call is 549.

```
GNU nano 4.8
#include <sys/syscall.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <linux/kernel.h>
#include <unistd.h>
int main()
{
        long x=syscall(549);
        printf("The value returned by system call hello is %ld",x);
        return 0;
}
```

12. The result of the system call can be seen in kernel logs using dmesg command

```
[ 3845.293370] ohci-pci 0000:00:06.0: frame counter not updating; disabled [ 3845.293381] ohci-pci 0000:00:06.0: HC died; cleaning up [ 3845.293864] usb 1-1: USB disconnect, device number 2 [ 8559.136819] Message printed by sowmyahello system call: Hello Sowmya!!! variant@sowmya:~/aos$
```

Ques 2: Write syscall which will receive string parameter and print it along with some message to kernel logs.

1.Create the directory sowmyaprint in /usr/src/linux-4.19.210 folder

```
variant@sownys:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210§ ls arch CREDITS fs Kbuild MAINTAINERS Module.symvers security sownyaprocess vnlinux block crypto hello Kconfig Makefile net sound System.map vnlinux-gdb.py bullt-in.a Documentation include kernel nm README sownyapetpid sownyabello certs drivers int lib nodules.bulltin samples sownyabello usr vnlinux.o copy. COPYING firmware ipc LICENSES nodules.order scripts sownyaprint virt
```

2. Create sowmyaprint.c file in the directory and add the below code.

3. Create a Makefile in the same directory and add the below line

```
GNU nano 4.8

obj-y := sowmyaprint.o
```

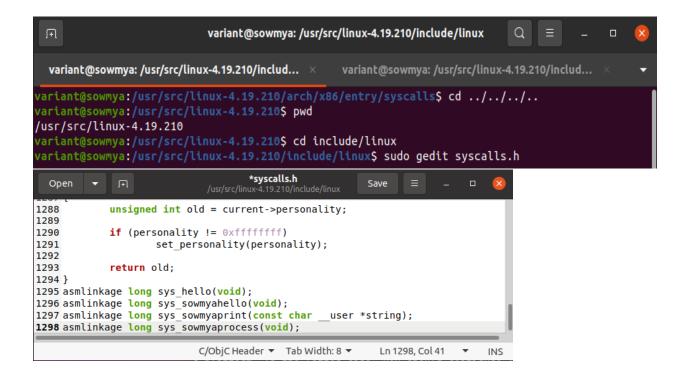
4. In the Makefile of the kernel folder add the name of the system call you are creating

```
Makefile [Read-Only]
976
     ifeq ($(has_libelf),1)
                                                                                               Q
       objtool_target := tools/objtool FORCE
977
978
979
       SKIP_STACK_VALIDATION := 1
       export SKIP_STACK_VALIDATION
980
981 endif
982 endif
983
984 PHONY += prepare0
985
986 ifeq ($(KBUILD_EXTMOD),)
                   += kernel/ certs/ mm/ fs/ ipc/ security/ crypto/ block/ hello/ sowmyahello/ sowmyaprint/ sowmyaprocess/
987 core-y
   sowmyagetpid/
988
989 vmlinux-dirs
                  := $(patsubst %/,%,$(filter %/, $(init-y) $(init-m) \
990
                        $(core-y) $(core-m) $(drivers-y) $(drivers-m) '
991
                        S(net-v) S(net-m) S(libs-v) S(libs-m) S(virt-v)))
```

5. In the syscall 64.tbl file in the below specified path, add the entry of new system call.



7.In the syscalls.h header file, add the signature of the system call



8. After doing above steps, compile the kernel.

```
/ariant@sowmya:/usr/src$ cd linux-4.19.210/
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ ls
arch
           CREDITS
                                   Kbuild
                                             MAINTAINERS
                                                              Module.symvers security
                                   Kconfig
                                                                                                           vmlinux-qdb.pv
                                             Makefile
                                                                                            System.map
built-in.a Documentation include kernel
                                                              README
                                                                                                           vmlinux.o
                                             modules.builtin samples
COPYING
                                   LICENSES modules.order
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make -j3
[sudo] password for variant:
 DESCEND objtool
         scripts/checksyscalls.sh
 CALL
```

9.Install the changes made to the kernel

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make -j3
[sudo] password for variant:
    DESCEND objtool
    CALL scripts/checksyscalls.sh
    CHK include/generated/compile.h
    Building modules, stage 2.
Kernel: arch/x86/boot/bzImage is ready (#13)
    MODPOST 4990 modules
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make modules_install install
[sudo] password for variant:
Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for variant:
    INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aegis128-aesni.ko
    INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aes-x86_64.ko
    INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aesni-intel.ko
```

- 10. Restart the system
- 11. Test the system call. The number assigned to first system call is 550.

12. The result of the system call can be seen in kernel logs using dmesg command

```
[ 8586.398590] Message printed by sowmyahello system call: Hello Sowmya!!!
[ 9240.017246] The string passed to sys_sowmyaprint system call is Second_system_call
variant@sowmya:~/aos$
```

Ques 3: Write system call to print the parent process id and current process id upon calling it

1.Create the directory sowmyaprocess in /usr/src/linux-4.19.210 folder

2. Create sowmyaprocess.c file in the directory and add the below code.

```
GNU nano 4.8
#include <linux/kernel.h>
#include <linux/cred.h>
#include <linux/syscalls.h>

asmlinkage long sys_sowmyaprocess(void)
{
    struct task_struct *cur=current;
    printk("The process id of the current process is %d\n",cur->pid);
    printk("The process id of the parent process of the current process is %d\n",cur->parent->pid);
    printk("The process id of the real parent of the current process id %d\n",cur->real_parent->pid);
    return 0;
}
```

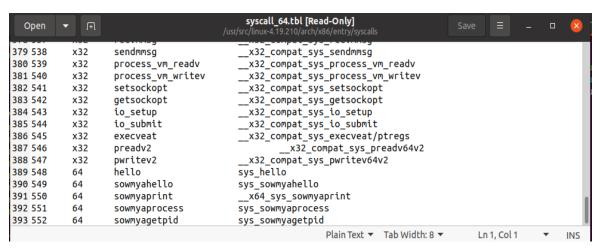
3. Create a Makefile in the same directory and add the below line

```
GNU nano 4.8
obj-y := sowmyaprocess.o
```

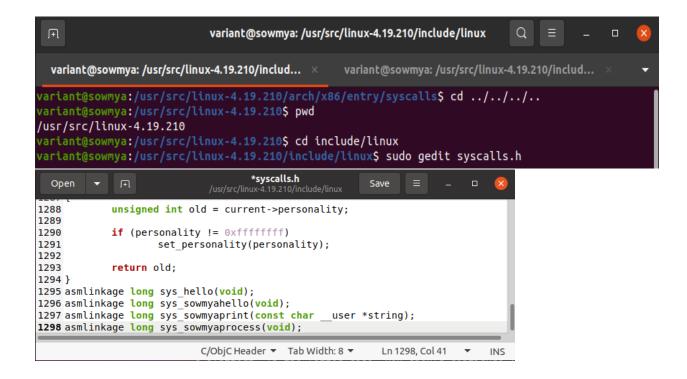
4. In the Makefile of the kernel folder add the name of the system call you are creating

```
Makefile [Read-Only]
976
     ifeq ($(has_libelf),1)
                                                                                               Q
977
       objtool_target := tools/objtool FORCE
978
979
       SKIP STACK VALIDATION := 1
980
       export SKIP_STACK_VALIDATION
981 endif
982 endif
983
984 PHONY += prepare0
985
986 ifeq ($(KBUILD_EXTMOD),)
                   += kernel/ certs/ mm/ fs/ ipc/ security/ crypto/ block/ hello/ sowmyahello/ sowmyaprint/ sowmyaprocess/
987 core-y
   sowmyagetpid/
988
989 vmlinux-dirs
                  := $(patsubst %/,%,$(filter %/, $(init-y) $(init-m) \
                        $(core-y) $(core-m) $(drivers-y) $(drivers-m) \
                        S(net-v) S(net-m) S(libs-v) S(libs-m) S(virt-v)))
991
```

5. In the syscall_64.tbl file in the below specified path, add the entry of new system call.



7.In the syscalls.h header file, add the signature of the system call



8. After doing above steps, compile the kernel.

```
/ariant@sowmya:/usr/src$ cd linux-4.19.210/
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ ls
arch
           CREDITS
                                   Kbuild
                                             MAINTAINERS
                                                              Module.symvers security
                                   Kconfig
                                                                                                           vmlinux-qdb.pv
                                             Makefile
                                                                                            System.map
built-in.a Documentation include kernel
                                                              README
                                                                                                           vmlinux.o
                                             modules.builtin samples
COPYING
                                   LICENSES modules.order
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make -j3
[sudo] password for variant:
 DESCEND objtool
         scripts/checksyscalls.sh
 CALL
```

9.Install the changes made to the kernel

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make -j3
[sudo] password for variant:
    DESCEND objtool
    CALL scripts/checksyscalls.sh
    CHK include/generated/compile.h
    Building modules, stage 2.
Kernel: arch/x86/boot/bzImage is ready (#13)
    MODPOST 4990 modules
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make modules_install install
[sudo] password for variant:
    Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for variant:
    INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aegis128-aesni.ko
    INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aesni-intel.ko
```

- 10. Restart the system
- 11. Test the system call. The number assigned to first system call is 550.

```
GNU nano 4.8
#include <sys/syscall.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <linux/kernel.h>
#include <unistd.h>
int main()
{
        long x=syscall(551);
        printf("The value returned by system call hello is %ld\n",x);
        return 0;
}
```

12. The result of the system call can be seen in kernel logs using dmesg command

```
[ 9240.017246] The string passed to sys_sowmyaprint system call is Second_system_call
[ 9507.425015] The process id of the current process is 15408
[ 9507.425018] The process id of the parent process of the current process is 1915
[ 9507.425019] The process id of the real parent of the current process id 1915
variant@sowmya:~/aos$
```

Observations: The process id's printed are different and below are my observations

- 1. In the above screenshot showing the results, the process id 15408 is the id the process which is invoking the sowmyaprocess system call.
- 2. The process id 1915 is the id of the process which invoked the current process ie..bash shell in this case.
- 3. Additional: When the parent process is killed/terminated before the completion of child process, the child process becomes an orphan. In that case another parent will be assigned (which can be init process).

Ques 4: Write system call to execute some predefined system call from your written system call

1.Create the directory sowmyagetpid in /usr/src/linux-4.19.210 folder

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ ls
           CREDITS
                                           MAINTAINERS
                                  Kbuild
                                                           Module.symvers security
                                 Kconfig
                                           Makefile
                                                                                        System.map
                                                                                                      vmlinux-gdb.py
built-in.a Documentation include kernel
                                                           README
                                                                                                      vmlinux.o
                                           modules.builtin samples
                                 LICENSES modules.order
COPYING
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$
```

2. Create sowmyagetpid.c file in the directory and add the below code.

```
GNU nano 4.8

pinclude <linux/kernel.h>

printk("The result of sowmyagetpid system call is %d\n",pid);

return (long)pid;

sowmyagetpid.c

sowmyagetpid.c

sowmyagetpid.c

pinclude <linux/syscalls.h>
asmlinkage long sys_sowmyagetpid(void)

{
    int pid=task_tgid_vnr(current);
    printk("The result of sowmyagetpid system call is %d\n",pid);

return (long)pid;
}
```

3. Create a Makefile in the same directory and add the below line

```
GNU nano 4.8
obj-y := sowmyagetpid.o
```

4. In the Makefile of the kernel folder add the name of the system call you are creating

```
Makefile [Read-Only]
 ifeq ($(has_libelf),1)
                                                                                            Ql
977
       objtool_target := tools/objtool FORCE
978 else
979
       SKIP STACK VALIDATION := 1
       export SKIP_STACK_VALIDATION
980
981 endif
982 endif
983
984 PHONY += prepare0
985
986 ifeq ($(KBUILD_EXTMOD),)
                  += kernel/ certs/ mm/ fs/ ipc/ security/ crypto/ block/ hello/ sowmyahello/ sowmyaprint/ sowmyaprocess/
987 core-y
   sowmyagetpid/
988
989 vmlinux-dirs := $(patsubst %/,%,$(filter %/, $(init-y) $(init-m) \
990
                       $(core-y) $(core-m) $(drivers-y) $(drivers-m) '
                       S(net-v) S(net-m) S(libs-v) S(libs-m) S(virt-v)))
991
```

5. In the syscall 64.tbl file in the below specified path, add the entry of new system call.

```
syscall_64.tbl [Read-Only]
  Open
379 538
                   sendmmsg
                                          __x32_compat_sys_sendmmsg
           x32
                                          __x32_compat_sys_process_vm_readv
380 539
           x32
                   process_vm_readv
                                          __x32_compat_sys_process_vm_writev
381 540
           x32
                  process_vm_writev
                                          __x32_compat_sys_setsockopt
382 541
           x32
                  setsockopt
383 542
                  getsockopt
                                          __x32_compat_sys_getsockopt
           x32
                                          __x32_compat_sys_io_setup
384 543
           x32
                  io_setup
                                            ___x32_compat_sys_io_submit
385 544
                  io submit
           x32
386 545
                                          __x32_compat_sys_execveat/ptregs
           x32
                  execveat
387 546
           x32
                  preadv2
                                                    _x32_compat_sys_preadv64v2
388 547
           x32
                  pwritev2
                                           __x32_compat_sys_pwritev64v2
389 548
           64
                  hello
                                          sys hello
390 549
                   sowmyahello
                                          sys_sowmyahello
           64
391 550
           64
                   sowmyaprint
                                          __x64_sys_sowmyaprint
392 551
                   sowmyaprocess
                                          sys_sowmyaprocess
393 552
                   sowmyagetpid
                                          sys_sowmyagetpid
                                                           Plain Text ▼ Tab Width: 8 ▼ Ln 1, Col 1 ▼
```

7.In the syscalls.h header file, add the signature of the system call

```
Ħ
                             variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210/include/linux
  variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210/includ... × variant@sowmya: /usr/src/linux-4.19.210/includ...
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210/arch/x86/entry/syscalls$ cd ../../..
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ pwd
/usr/src/linux-4.19.210
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ cd include/linux
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210/include/linux$ sudo gedit syscalls.h
                                    syscalls.h
  Open
         1290
             if (personality != 0xffffffff)
1291
                    set_personality(personality);
1292
1293
             return old;
1294 }
1295 asmlinkage long sys hello(void);
1296 asmlinkage long sys_sowmyahello(void);
1297 asmlinkage long sys_sowmyaprint(const char __user *string);
1298 asmlinkage long sys sowmyaprocess(void);
1299 asmlinkage long sys_sowmyagetpid(void);
1300 #endif
```

8. After doing above steps, compile the kernel.

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src$ cd linux-4.19.210/
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ ls
           CREDITS
                                   Kbuild
                                            MAINTAINERS
                                                             Module.symvers security
                                   Kconfig
                                            Makefile
                                                                                                          vmlinux-gdb.py
                                                                                           System.map
built-in.a Documentation include kernel
                                                             README
                                                                                                          vmlinux.o
                                            modules.builtin samples
                                   LICENSES modules.order
COPYING
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make -j3
[sudo] password for variant:
 DESCEND objtool
 CALL scripts/checksyscalls.sh
```

9.Install the changes made to the kernel

```
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make -j3
[sudo] password for variant:
    DESCEND objtool
    CALL scripts/checksyscalls.sh
    CHK include/generated/compile.h
    Building modules, stage 2.
Kernel: arch/x86/boot/bzImage is ready (#13)
    MODPOST 4990 modules
variant@sowmya:/usr/src/linux-4.19.210$ sudo make modules_install install
[sudo] password for variant:
Sorry, try again.
[sudo] password for variant:
INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aegis128-aesni.ko
INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aes-x86_64.ko
INSTALL arch/x86/crypto/aesni-intel.ko
```

- 10. Restart the system
- 11. Test the system call. The number assigned to first system call is 550.

```
GNU nano 4.8
#include <sys/syscall.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <linux/kernel.h>
#include <unistd.h>
int main()
{
        long x=syscall(552);
        printf("The value returned by system call hello is %ld\n",x);
        return 0;
}
```

12. The result of the system call can be seen in kernel logs using dmesg command

```
variant@sowmya:~/aos$ nano getpid.c
variant@sowmya:~/aos$ cc getpid.c
variant@sowmya:~/aos$ ./a.out
The value returned by system call hello is 15433
variant@sowmya:~/aos$
```

```
[ 9507.425019] The process id of the real parent of the current process id 1915
[ 9911.882334] The result of sowmyagetpid system call is 15433
variant@sowmya:~/aos$
```

Note for the 4th question:

System calls are an interface between userspace and kernel space and should not be used from the kernel space. So, instead of using getpid system call, task_tgid_vnr function of the kernel library is used to get the process id of the current process. The system call getpid itself used the same function.