Xv6 and Scheduling
V 1.0 (January 10, 2022)

In this offline, you'll be putting a new scheduler into xv6. It is called a lottery scheduler, and the full version is described in this chapter of the online book; you'll be building a simpler one. The basic idea is simple: assign each running process a slice of the processor based on the number of tickets it has; the more tickets a process has, the more it runs. Each time slice, a randomized lottery determines the winner of the lottery; that winning process is the one that runs for that time slice.

You'll need two new system calls to implement this scheduler. The first is `int settickets(int number)`, which sets the number of tickets of the calling process. By default, each process should get one ticket; calling this routine makes it such that a process can raise the number of tickets it receives, and thus receive a higher proportion of CPU cycles. This routine should return 0 if successful, and -1 otherwise (if, for example, the caller passes in a number less than one).

The second is `int getpinfo(struct pstat *)`. This routine returns some information about all running processes, including how many times each has been chosen to run and the process ID of each. You can use this system call to build a

variant of the command line program ps, which can then be called to see what is going on. The structure `pstat` is defined below; note, you cannot change this structure, and must use it exactly as is. This routine should return 0 if successful, and -1 otherwise (if, for example, a bad or NULL pointer is passed into the kernel).

Most of the code for the scheduler is quite localized and can be found in proc.c; the associated header file, `proc.h` is also quite useful to examine. To change the scheduler, not much needs to be done; study its control flow and then try some small changes.

You'll need to assign tickets to a process when it is created. Specifically, you'll need to make sure a child process inherits the same number of tickets as its parents. Thus, if the parent has 10 tickets, and calls `fork()` to create a child process, the child should also get 10 tickets.

You'll also need to figure out how to generate random numbers in the kernel; some searching should lead you to a simple pseudo-random number generator, which you can then include in the kernel and use as appropriate.

Finally, you'll need to understand how to fill in the structure pstat in the kernel and pass the results to user space. The structure should look like what you see here, in a file you'll have to include called `pstat.h`:

```
#ifndef _PSTAT_H_
#define _PSTAT_H_

#include "param.h"

struct pstat {
  int inuse[NPROC];   // whether this slot of the process table
is in use (1 or 0)
  int tickets[NPROC]; // the number of tickets this process has
  int pid[NPROC];     // the PID of each process
```

```
  int ticks[NPROC];   // the number of ticks each process has accumulated
};

#endif // _PSTAT_H_
```

Good examples of how to pass arguments into the kernel are found in existing system calls. In particular, follow the path of `read()`, which will lead you to `sys_read()`, which will show you how to use `argptr()` (and related calls) to obtain a pointer that has been passed into the kernel. Note how careful the kernel is with pointers passed from user space -- they are a security threat(!), and thus must be checked very carefully before usage.

Submission Guideline: (Deadline 23 January, 8 AM)

Start with a fresh copy of xv6 from the original repository. Make necessary changes for this offline. Don't commit. Then create a patch using the command line interface:

```
git diff tag1..tag2 > studentID.patch
```

Where studentID = your own six digit student ID (e.g., 1505006). Just submit the patch file. In the lab, during evaluation, we will start with a fresh copy of xv6 and apply your patch using the command line:

```
git apply studentID.patch
```