16.317: Microprocessor Systems Design ISpring 2014

Lecture 19: Key Questions March 12, 2014

1.	What is an interrupt? What is an exception?
2	For what purposes are interrupts useful?
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4. What is an interrupt or exception vector? Describe briefly how the interrupt vector table functions.

5. Describe the x86 software interrupt instructions.

6. Describe the specific steps taken in x86 interrupt processing.

7. What is the difference between the two hardware interrupt inputs on x86 processors?

8. How does an x86 processor determine the appropriate interrupt vector when the INTR pin is asserted? Describe both hardware and software methods for doing so.