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Project Document: Inter-Process Communication (IPC) Framework

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1. Project Overview

Project Title: Inter-Process Communication (IPC) Framework

The **IPC (Inter-Process Communication) Framework** project is about creating tools that help different computer programs work together smoothly on a Linux system. These tools allow programs to share information and coordinate their actions, even if they are running on different computers.

To achieve this, the project uses:

- **Message Queues:** A way for one program to leave a message for another program to pick up later.
- **Shared Memory:** A common space where programs can read and write information directly.
- **Semaphores:** A system that ensures programs take turns using shared resources, avoiding conflicts.

2. Objective:

Enable Program Communication: Allow different programs to talk to each other easily.

Share Data Efficiently: Let programs access and share information directly.

Avoid Conflicts: Ensure programs don't interfere with each other when using shared resources.

Be Flexible: Create tools that can be used in various larger systems.

3. Scope

Target Environment

- **Linux-based operating systems.**

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Primary Audience

- System programmers, developers working on multi-process applications, and students learning about process communication.

Programming Language

- C++

Libraries

- POSIX IPC mechanisms (message queues, shared memory, semaphores)

4. Features:

Message Passing:

- **Feature:** Enable communication between processes using message queues.
- **Description:** Processes can send and receive messages using a structured message queue system. Each message has a specific type, allowing selective reception of messages by type.

Synchronization:

- **Feature:** Use of Semaphores.
- **Description:** Semaphores are used to synchronize access to shared resources between multiple processes. This prevents race conditions by controlling the order of execution.

Shared Memory:

- **Feature:** Memory Sharing Between Processes.
- **Description:** Processes can communicate by sharing a block of memory, allowing them to exchange data quickly. Shared memory is typically faster than message queues or pipes for large data transfers.

Process Creation:

- **Feature:** Forking New Processes.
- **Description:** The framework supports creating child processes using the `fork()` system call. The child processes can execute different parts of the application or handle separate tasks.**Pipes for Streamed Communication:**
- **Feature:** Unidirectional and Bidirectional Pipes.

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- **Description:** The framework supports the use of pipes for streaming data between processes. Pipes can be used for one-way or two-way communication, enabling processes to exchange information in a producer-consumer model.

Multi-Process Communication:

- **Feature:** Communication Across Multiple Processes.
- **Description:** The framework allows for communication not just between two processes but across multiple processes, using a combination of message queues, shared memory, and semaphores.

Concurrency Management:

- **Feature:** Concurrent Processing.
- **Description:** Support for concurrent execution of processes, allowing multiple tasks to run simultaneously while managing shared resources.

Testing and Simulation Tools:

- **Feature:** Built-in Testing and Simulation Tools.
- **Description:** Include tools to simulate different IPC scenarios, test the robustness of the system, and evaluate the performance of the communication mechanisms under various conditions.

Functional Requirements

1. Message Queue Communication:

- **Description:** The system should enable processes to communicate using message queues, allowing messages to be sent and received based on message types.
- **Priority:** High

2. Semaphore-Based Synchronization:

- **Description:** The system must implement semaphores to control access to shared resources and ensure that processes are synchronized correctly.
- **Priority:** High

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3. Shared Memory Access:

- **Description:** Processes should be able to share a memory space for fast data exchange, with support for read and write operations.
- **Priority:** High

4. Process Creation and Management:

- **Description:** The system should allow for the creation of new processes using `fork()`, manage their execution, and handle communication between parent and child processes.
- **Priority:** High

5. Inter-Process Signaling:

- **Description:** The system should support signaling between processes, allowing processes to send and handle signals like `SIGINT` and `SIGTERM`.
- **Priority:** Medium

6. Pipe Communication:

- **Description:** The system should support unidirectional and bidirectional pipes for streaming data between processes.
- **Priority:** Medium

Non-Functional Requirements

1. Performance:

- **Description:** The system should have low latency and high throughput for message passing, ensuring that communication between processes occurs quickly and efficiently.
- **Priority:** High

2. Scalability:

- **Description:** The system should be able to handle a large number of processes and high volumes of data without significant performance degradation.
- **Priority:** Medium

3. Reliability:

- **Description:** The IPC framework should be reliable, ensuring that messages are not lost, and processes are correctly synchronized even under heavy load.
- **Priority:** High

4. Usability:

- **Description:** The framework should be easy to use, with clear documentation and examples, making it accessible for developers to implement IPC in their applications.
- **Priority:** Medium

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5. Security:

- **Description:** The framework should protect against unauthorized access to shared resources and ensure data integrity and confidentiality.
- **Priority:** High

6. Maintainability:

- **Description:** The codebase should be well-documented and modular, allowing for easy updates and extensions to the system.
- **Priority:** Medium

5. User Roles

System Administrator

- Full access to create, manage, and terminate IPC objects.

Regular User

- Restricted access based on permissions, primarily focused on using the IPC mechanisms.

6. Input/Output Specifications

Input:

- Messages, data segments, and synchronization signals from various processes.

Output:

- Messages delivered to intended recipients, synchronized access to shared resources.

7. Challenges

Resource Management:

- Efficiently managing and cleaning up IPC objects to prevent resource leakage.

Concurrency Control:

- Implementing robust synchronization mechanisms to avoid race conditions and deadlocks.

Error Handling:

- Providing clear error messages and recovery options in case of failures.

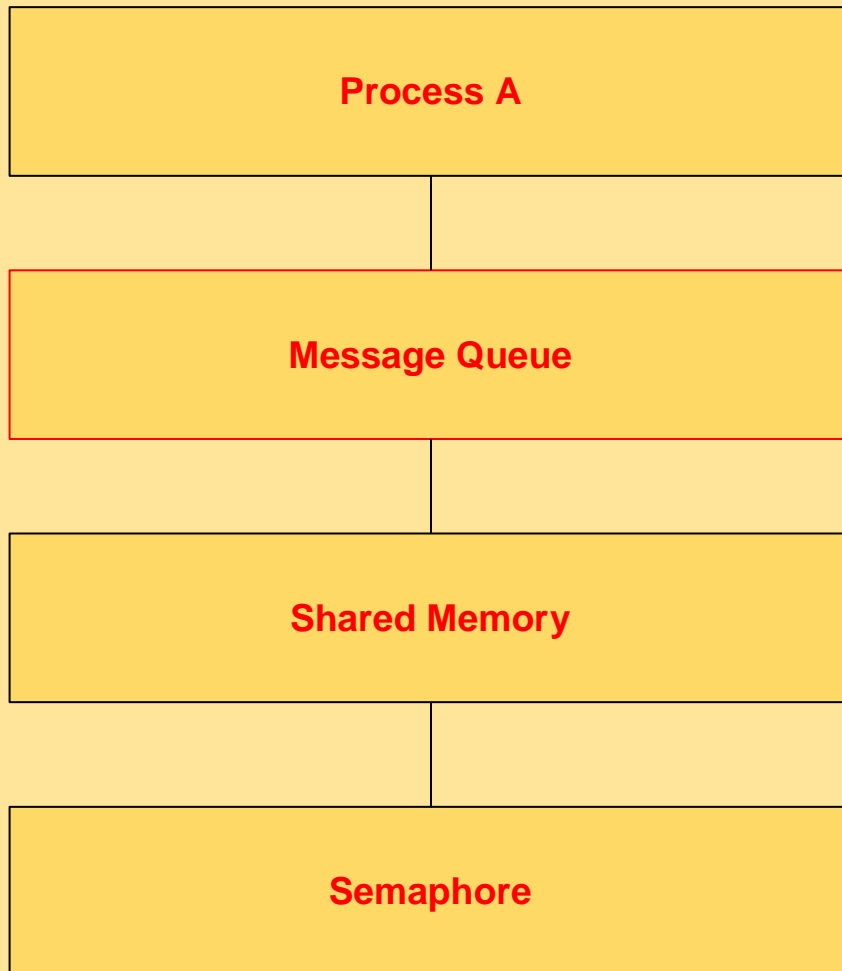
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8. System Design

Process A

- Send a message to **Message Queue**.
- Writes data to **Shared Memory**.
- Signals **Semaphore** after writing to **Shared Memory**.

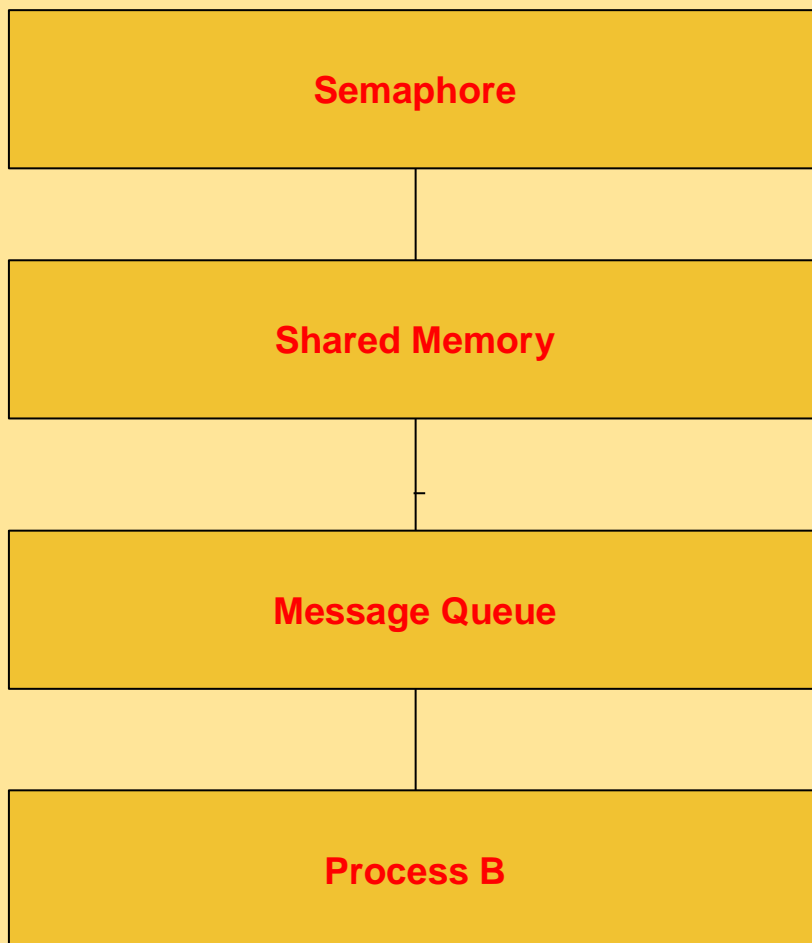
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Process B

- Waits for a signal from **Semaphore** before accessing **Shared Memory**.
- Reads data from **Shared Memory**.
- Receives a message from **Message Queue**

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Process A

It is responsible for sending data to the Message Queue and writing data to Shared Memory. Once it has written to shared memory, it signals the Semaphore to notify Process B that the data is ready.

Process B

It waits for the semaphore signal, ensuring that it only accesses the Shared Memory when it is safe to do so. After reading the data, Process B can also receive messages from the Message Queue.

9. Skeleton Code Structure

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ipc.h

```

#ifndef IPC_H // Check if IPC_H is not defined

#define IPC_H // Define IPC_H

#include <iostream>
#include <sys/ipc.h>
#include <sys/msg.h>
#include <sys/shm.h>
#include <sys/sem.h>
#include <cstring>
#include <unistd.h>


// define Message Structure
struct Message {
    long msg_type;
    char msg_text[100];
};


// Message Queue Functions
int initMessageQueue(key_t key);
int sendMessage(int msgid, const Message& message);
int receiveMessage(int msgid, Message& message, long msg_type);

// Shared Memory Functions
int initSharedMemory(key_t key, size_t size);
void* attachSharedMemory(int shmid);


// Semaphore Functions-
int initSemaphore(key_t key, int num_sems);
int semaphoreWait(int semid, int sem_num);
int semaphoreSignal(int semid, int sem_num);

// IPC Framework Initialization

```

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```
void initIPCFramework();
```

```
// Testing Functions
```

```
void test_message_queue();
```

```
void test_shared_memory();
```

```
void test_semaphore();
```

```
void test_concurrency();
```

```
void test_integration();
```

```
#endif // IPC_H
```

[ipc.cpp](#)

```
#include <sys/wait.h>
```

```
#include <iostream>
```

```
#include <cstring>
```

```
#include <cstdlib>
```

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
// Message Queue Functions
```

```
int initMessageQueue(key_t key) {  
    int msgid = msgget(key, 0666 | IPC_CREAT);  
    if (msgid == -1) {  
        perror("msgget");  
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);  
    }  
    return msgid;  
}
```

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```
}
```

```
int sendMessage(int msgid, const Message& message) {
    if (msgsnd(msgid, &message, sizeof(message.msg_text), 0) == -1) {
        perror("msgsnd");
        return -1;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

```
int receiveMessage(int msgid, Message& message, long msg_type) {
    if (msgrcv(msgid, &message, sizeof(message.msg_text), msg_type, 0) == -1) {
        perror("msgrcv");
        return -1;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

// Shared Memory Functions

```
int initSharedMemory(key_t key, size_t size) {
    int shmid = shmget(key, size, 0666 | IPC_CREAT);
    if (shmid == -1) {
        perror("shmget");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
    return shmid;
}
```

```
void* attachSharedMemory(int shmid) {
    void* shmaddr = shmat(shmid, NULL, 0);
    if (shmaddr == (void*)-1) {
```

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```

        perror("shmat");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
    return shmaddr;
}

// Semaphore Functions
int initSemaphore(key_t key, int num_sems) {
    int semid = semget(key, num_sems, 0666 | IPC_CREAT);
    if (semid == -1) {
        perror("semget");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }

    // Initialize semaphore to 1 (binary semaphore)
    semctl(semid, 0, SETVAL, 1);

    return semid;
}

int semaphoreWait(int semid, int sem_num) {
    struct sembuf sops = {static_cast<unsigned short>(sem_num), -1, 0};
    if (semop(semid, &sops, 1) == -1) {
        perror("semop wait");
        return -1;
    }
    return 0;
}

int semaphoreSignal(int semid, int sem_num) {

```


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```

    struct sembuf sops = {static_cast<unsigned short>(sem_num), 1, 0};
    if (semop(semid, &sops, 1) == -1) {
        perror("semop signal");
        return -1;
    }
    return 0;
}

// IPC Framework Initialization
void initIPCFramework() {
    key_t key = ftok("progfile", 65);
    int msgid = initMessageQueue(key);
    int shmid = initSharedMemory(key, 1024);
    int semid = initSemaphore(key, 1);

    Message message;
    message.msg_type = 1;
    strcpy(message.msg_text, "Hello from Message Queue!");
    sendMessage(msgid, message);
    receiveMessage(msgid, message, 1);
    std::cout << "Received Message: " << message.msg_text << std::endl;

    char* shared_data = static_cast<char*>(attachSharedMemory(shmid));
    strcpy(shared_data, "Shared Memory Data");

    semaphoreWait(semid, 0);
    std::cout << "Shared Memory Content: " << shared_data << std::endl;
    semaphoreSignal(semid, 0);
}

```

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// Testing Functions

```
void test_message_queue() {
    key_t key = ftok("progfile", 65);
    int msgid = initMessageQueue(key);

    Message message;
    message.msg_type = 1;
    strcpy(message.msg_text, "Test Message Queue");
    sendMessage(msgid, message);

    receiveMessage(msgid, message, 1);
    std::cout << "Message Queue Test - Received: " << message.msg_text << std::endl;
}
```

```
void test_shared_memory() {
    key_t key = ftok("progfile", 65);
    int shmid = initSharedMemory(key, 1024);

    char* shared_data = static_cast<char*>(attachSharedMemory(shmid));
    strcpy(shared_data, "Test Shared Memory");

    std::cout << "Shared Memory Test - Content: " << shared_data << std::endl;
}
```

```
void test_semaphore() {
    key_t key = ftok("progfile", 65);
    int semid = initSemaphore(key, 1);

    std::cout << "Waiting on semaphore." << std::endl;
    if (semaphoreWait(semid, 0) == -1) {
```

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```

        std::cerr << "Semaphore wait failed." << std::endl;
        return;
    }
    std::cout << "Semaphore acquired, entering critical section." << std::endl;
    // Simulate some work in the critical section
    sleep(1); // Replace with actual work
    if (semaphoreSignal(semid, 0) == -1) {
        std::cerr << "Semaphore signal failed." << std::endl;
        return;
    }
    std::cout << "Semaphore released, exiting critical section." << std::endl;
}

void test_concurrency() {
    pid_t pid = fork();
    if (pid == 0) {
        std::cout << "Child process starting tests." << std::endl;
        test_message_queue();
        test_shared_memory();
        test_semaphore();
        std::cout << "Child process tests completed." << std::endl;
        exit(0);
    } else if (pid > 0) {
        std::cout << "Parent process waiting for child." << std::endl;
        test_message_queue();
        test_shared_memory();
        test_semaphore();
        wait(NULL);
        std::cout << "Parent process tests completed." << std::endl;
    } else {

```

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```

        perror("fork");
        exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
    }
}

void test_integration() {
    std::cout << "Integration test starting." << std::endl;
    initIPCFramework();
    std::cout << "Integration test completed." << std::endl;
}

```

ipc_test.cpp

```

#include "../include/ipc.h"
#include <iostream>
#include <cstring>
#include <cstdlib>
#include <sys/wait.h>
#include <unistd.h>

```

```

int main() {
    test_message_queue();
    test_shared_memory();
    test_semaphore();
    test_concurrency();
    test_integration();

    return 0;
}

```

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Makefile

Default target

all: \$(TARGET)

Rule to build the executable

\$(TARGET): \$(OBJ_FILES)

\$(CC) \$(CFLAGS) -o \$@ \$^

Rule to build object files

\$(BUILD_DIR)/%.o: \$(SRC_DIR)/%.cpp

mkdir -p \$(BUILD_DIR)

\$(CC) \$(CFLAGS) -c \$< -o \$@

Clean rule to remove build artifacts

clean:

rm -rf \$(BUILD_DIR) \$(TARGET)

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OUTPUT

```

dash: ./ipc_test: No such file or directory
rps@rps-virtual-machine:~/CapstoneProjectWiprol/ipc_framework$ make ipc_test
mkdir -p build
g++ -Wall -g -c src/ipc.cpp -o build/ipc.o
mkdir -p build
g++ -Wall -g -c src/ipc_test.cpp -o build/ipc_test.o
g++ -Wall -g -o ipc_test build/ipc.o build/ipc_test.o
rps@rps-virtual-machine:~/CapstoneProjectWiprol/ipc_framework$ ./ipc_test
Message Queue Test - Received: Test Message Queue
Shared Memory Test - Content: Test Shared Memory
Waiting on semaphore.
Semaphore acquired, entering critical section.
Semaphore released, exiting critical section.
Parent process waiting for child.
Message Queue Test - Received: Test Message Queue
Child process starting tests.
Shared Memory Test - Content: Test Shared Memory
Message Queue Test - Received: Test Message Queue
Waiting on semaphore.
Semaphore acquired, entering critical section.
Shared Memory Test - Content: Test Shared Memory
Waiting on semaphore.
Semaphore acquired, entering critical section.
Semaphore released, exiting critical section.
Semaphore released, exiting critical section.
Child process tests completed.
Parent process tests completed.
Integration test starting.
Received Message: Hello from Message Queue!
Shared Memory Content: Shared Memory Data
Integration test completed.
rps@rps-virtual-machine:~/CapstoneProjectWiprol/ipc_framework$

```

```
rm -rf $(BUILD_DIR) $(TARGET)
```

9. Testing and Validation

Unit Testing

- Test individual IPC mechanisms (message queues, shared memory, semaphores) to ensure correctness.

Concurrency Testing

- Simulate multiple processes interacting with the framework to ensure synchronization and data integrity.

Integration Testing

- Verify the framework works seamlessly as a unified IPC solution.

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Bug Report: IPC Framework Project

Project: IPC Framework

Date: 3th September 2024

Reported By: Mahima Bhardwaj

Bug ID: IPC-001

Bug Title: Message Queue: Incorrect message retrieval when multiple messages are present

Severity: High

Priority: Medium

Status: Open

Environment:

- Operating System: Ubuntu 20.04 LTS
- Compiler: g++ (GCC) 9.4.0
- Related Files: ipc.cpp, ipc.h

Description:

When sending multiple messages to the message queue, the program retrieves only the first message, ignoring subsequent messages. The `msgrcv()` function is not correctly handling multiple message retrievals, resulting in incomplete communication between processes.

Steps to Reproduce:

Compile and run the IPC framework project.

```
g++ ipc.cpp ipc_test.cpp -o ipc_framework -lrt
```

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`./ipc_framework`

Modify the `test_message_queue()` function to send multiple messages:

```
strcpy(message.msg_text, "First Message");
sendMessage(msgid, message);

strcpy(message.msg_text, "Second Message");
sendMessage(msgid, message);

strcpy(message.msg_text, "Third Message");
sendMessage(msgid, message);
```

Attempt to retrieve the messages using `receiveMessage()` function.

Observe that only the first message is printed, while the second and third messages are not retrieved.

Expected Behavior:

All sent messages should be retrieved in sequence using the `receiveMessage()` function.

Actual Behavior:

Only the first message sent to the message queue is retrieved. Subsequent messages are ignored or lost.

Possible Cause:

- Incorrect usage of `msgrcv()` in the `receiveMessage()` function. The call to `msgrcv()` is not correctly looping through or managing the queue for multiple messages.

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Related Bugs:

- **IPC-002:** Potential semaphore deadlock issue in `test_concurrency()` function.
-

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10. Documentation

Code Documentation:

Use inline comments and external documentation (e.g., Doxygen) to explain the purpose and usage of each module.

User Guide:

Provide comprehensive instructions for developers on how to integrate and use the IPC framework in their applications.

11. Milestones

Phase 1

- Research and setup of the development environment.

Phase 2

- Implementation of message queues.

Phase 3

- Implementation of shared memory.

Phase 4

- Implementation of semaphores.

Phase 5

- Integration of IPC mechanisms into a unified framework.

Phase 6

- Testing, debugging, and documentation.

12. References

POSIX IPC Documentation

- <https://man7.org/linux/man-pages/man7/ipc.7.html>

Message Queues

- <https://man7.org/linux/man-pages/man2/msgget.2.html>

Shared Memory

- <https://man7.org/linux/man-pages/man2/shmget.2.html>

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Semaphores

- <https://man7.org/linux/man-pages/man2/semget.2.html>

This document outlines the requirements and provides a foundation for implementing an Inter-Process Communication (IPC) framework. The provided skeleton code offers a basic structure, which can be expanded to meet the full scope of the project.

THANK YOU

- WIPRO TEAM

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- RPS TEAM
- SHWEATK SIR
- KIRAN VVN SIR