

[01:41](#)

Threads

A thread is a basic unit of CPU utilization.

It comprises

- A thread ID
- A program counter
- A register set and
- A stack

It shares with other threads belonging to the same process its code section, data section, and other operating-system resources, such as open files and signals.

A traditional / heavyweight process has a single thread of control.

If a process has multiple threads of control, it can perform more than one task at a time.

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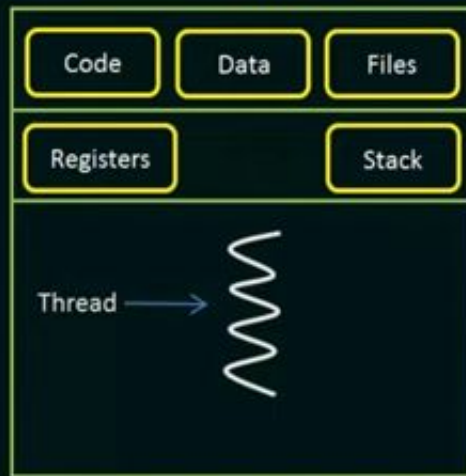
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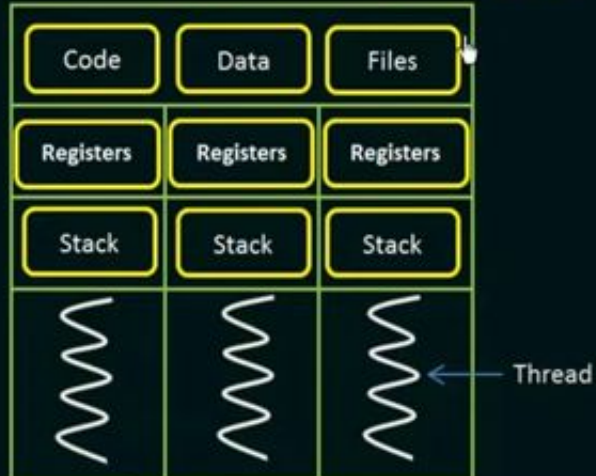
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Single-threaded process

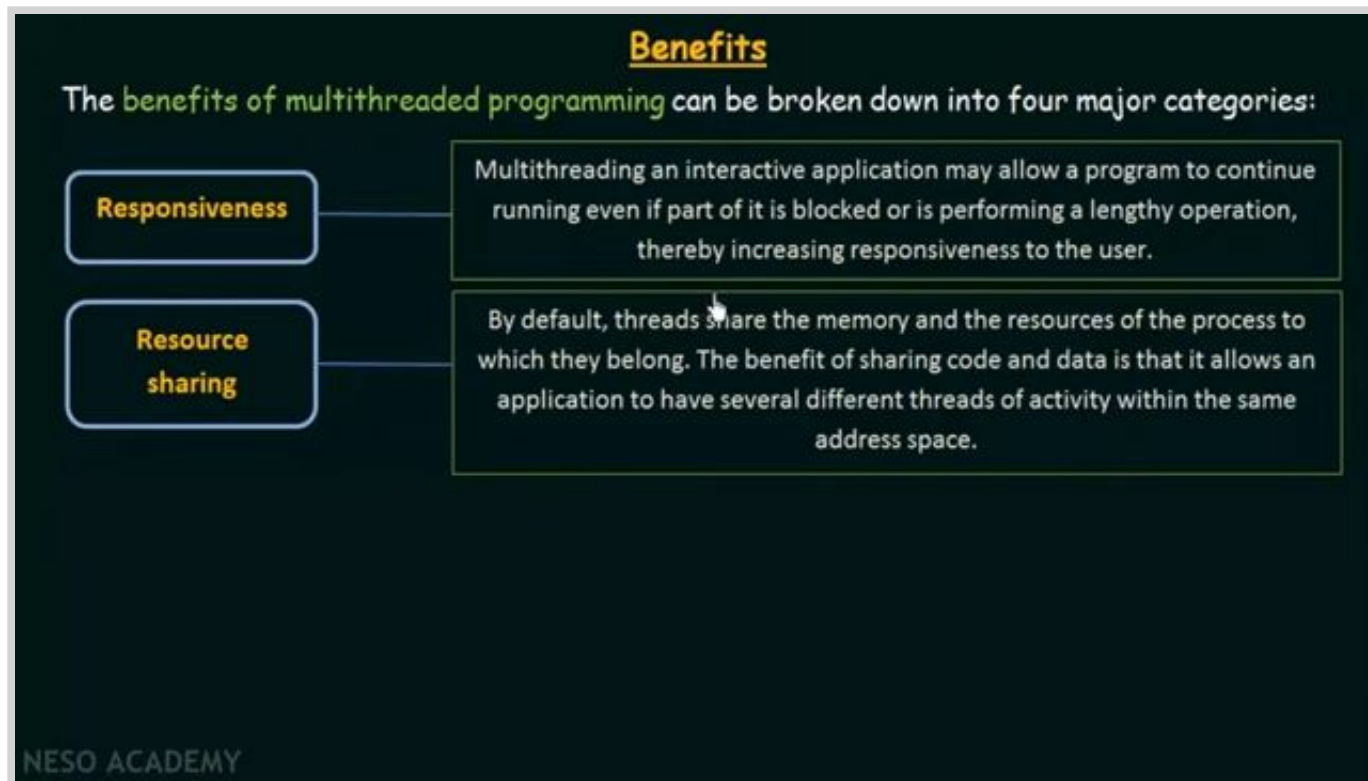


Multi-threaded process

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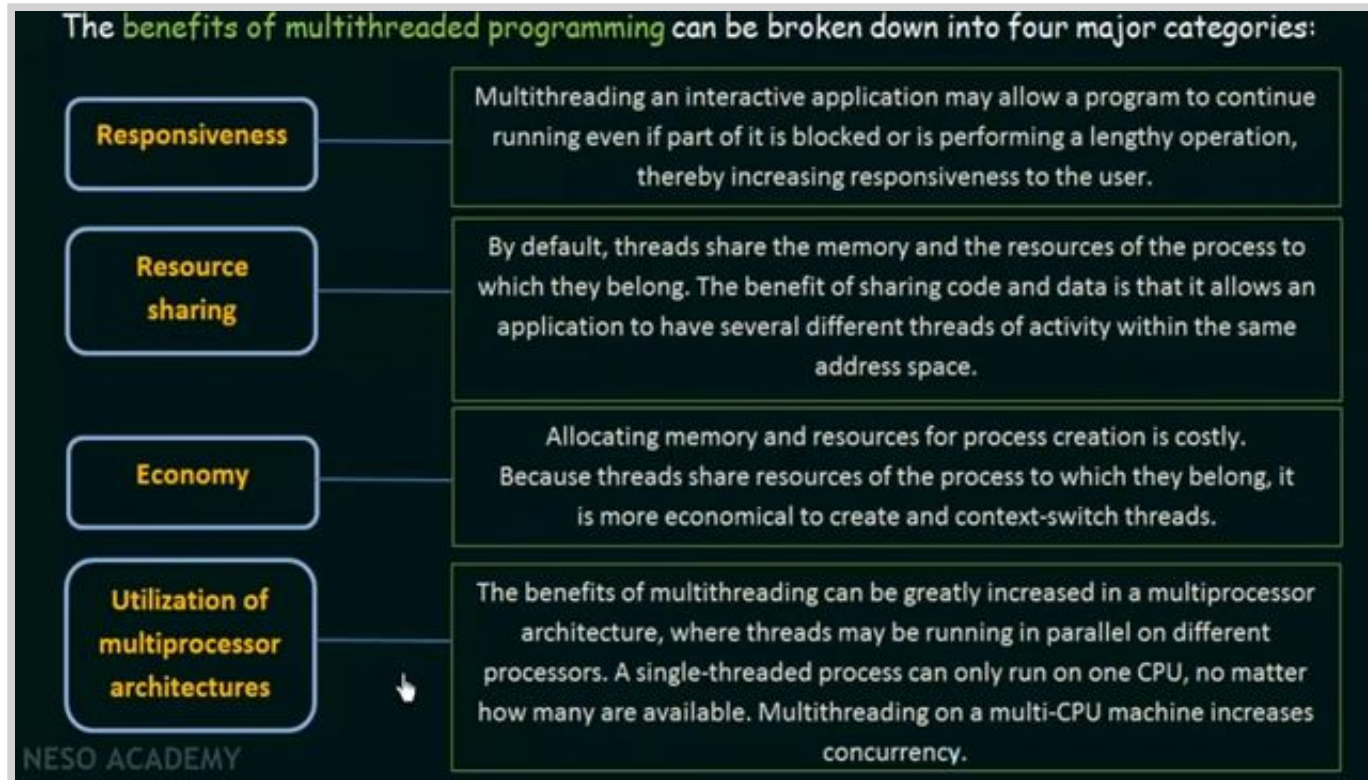
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Multithreading Models and Hyperthreading

Types of Threads:

- 1) **User Threads** - Supported above the kernel and are managed without kernel support.
- 2) **Kernel Threads** - Supported and managed directly by the operating system.

Ultimately, there must exist a relationship between user threads and kernel threads.

There are three common ways of establishing this relationship:

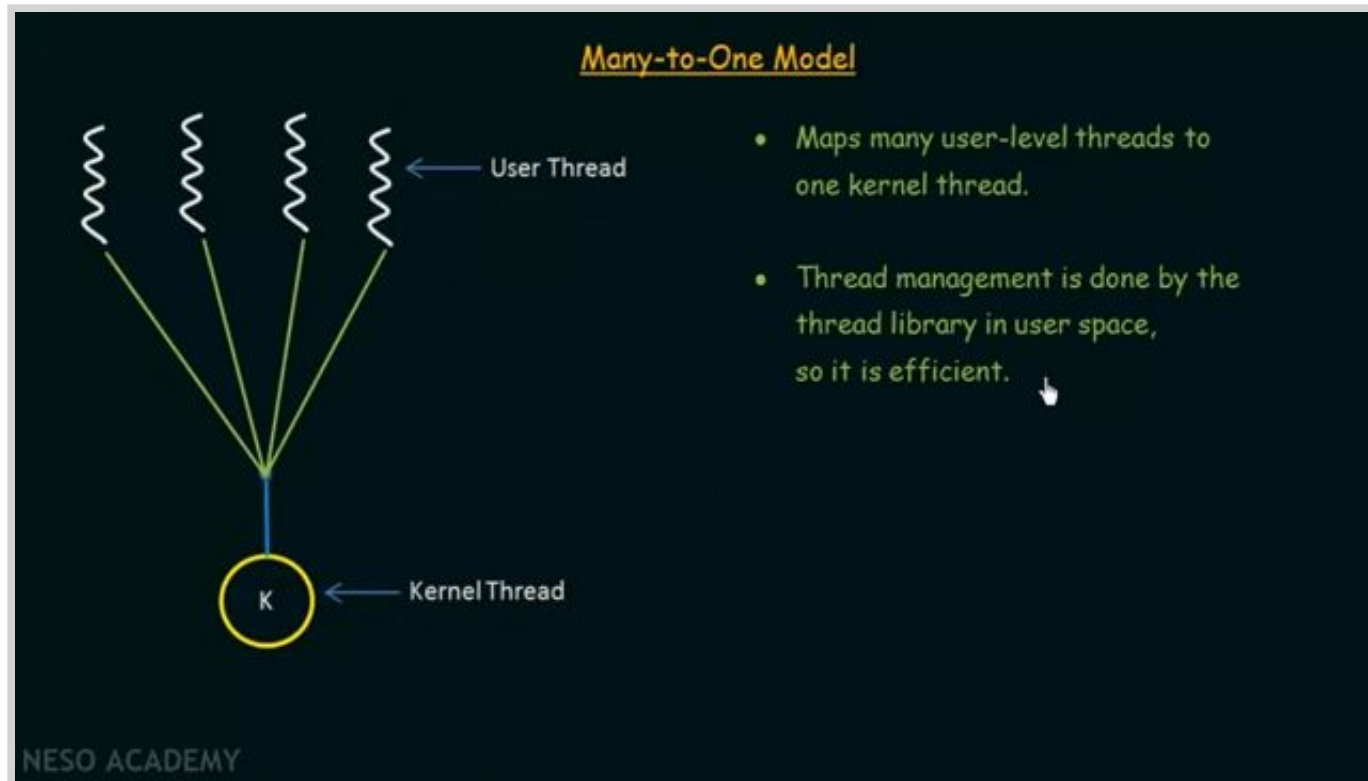
1. **Many-to-One Model**
2. **One-to-One Model**
3. **Many-to-Many Model**

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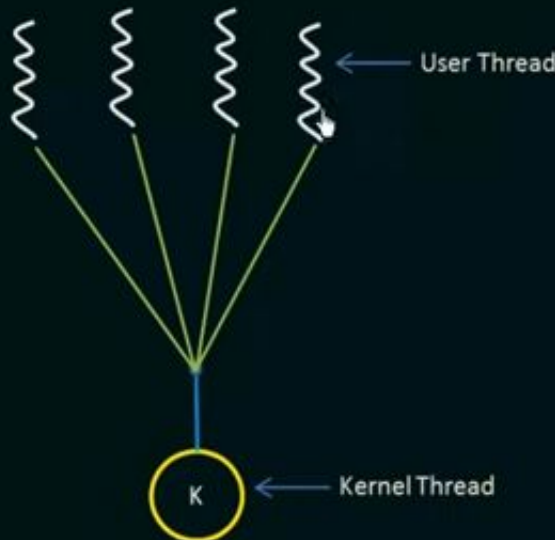
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Many-to-One Model



- Maps many user-level threads to one kernel thread.
- Thread management is done by the thread library in user space, so it is efficient.
- The entire process will block if a thread makes a blocking system call.
- Because only one thread can access the kernel at a time, multiple threads are unable to run in parallel on multiprocessors.

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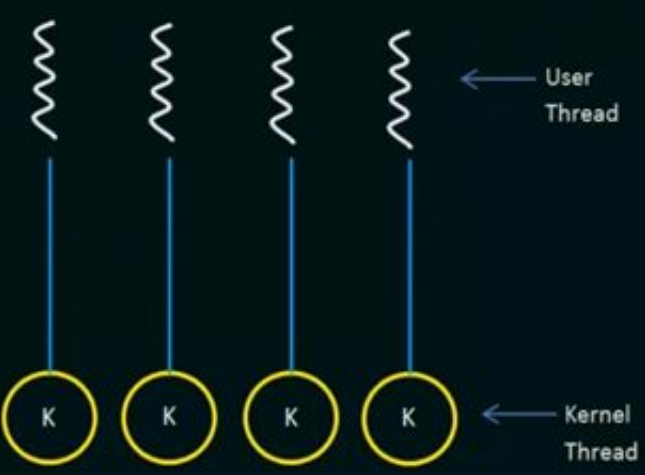
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One-to-One Model



- Maps each user thread to a kernel thread.
- Provides more concurrency than the many-to-one model by allowing another thread to run when a thread makes a blocking system call;
- Also allows multiple threads to run in parallel on multiprocessors.
- Creating a user thread requires creating the corresponding kernel thread.
- Because the overhead of creating kernel threads can burden the performance of an application, most implementations of this model restrict the number of threads supported by the system.

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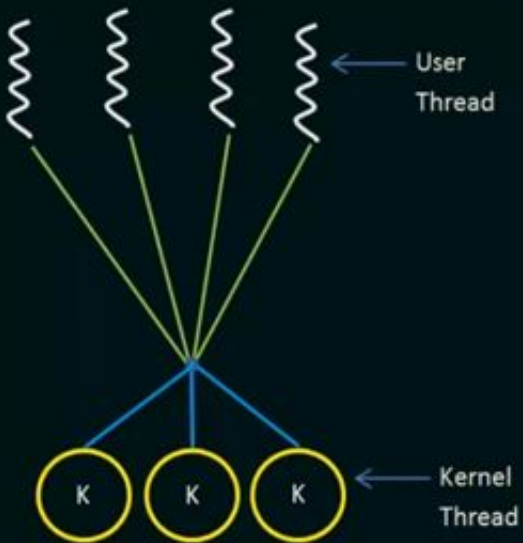
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Many-to-Many Model



- Multiplexes many user-level threads to a smaller or equal number of kernel threads.
- The number of kernel threads may be specific to either a particular application or a particular machine.
- Developers can create as many user threads as necessary, and the corresponding kernel threads can run in parallel on a multiprocessor.
- Also, when a thread performs a blocking system call, the kernel can schedule another thread for execution.

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Hyperthreading

or

Simultaneous Multithreading (SMT)

Hyperthreaded systems allow their processor cores' resources to become multiple logical processors for performance.



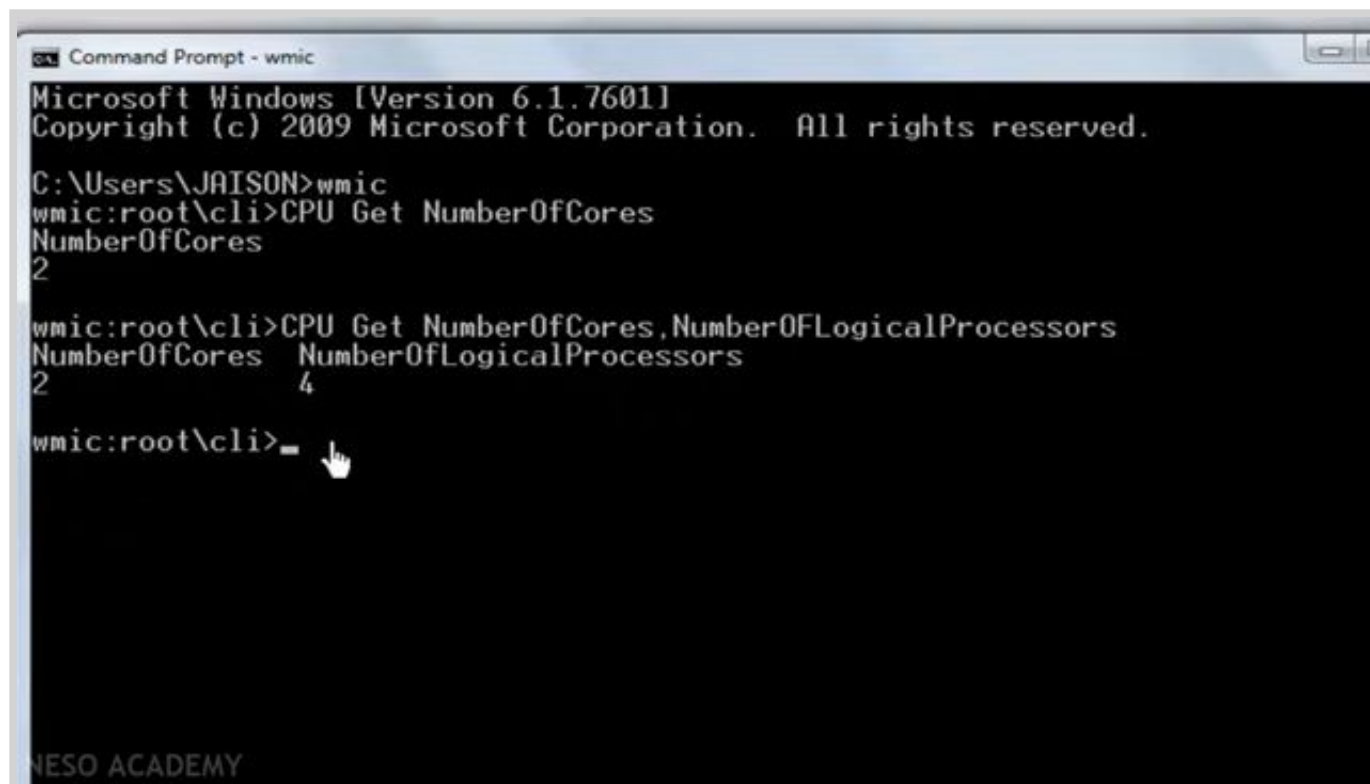
It enables the processor to execute **two threads**, or sets of instructions, **at the same time**. Since hyper-threading allows two streams to be executed in parallel, it is almost like having two separate processors working together.

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```
Command Prompt - wmic
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\JAISON>wmic
wmic:root\cli>CPU Get NumberOfCores
NumberOfCores
2

wmic:root\cli>CPU Get NumberOfCores,NumberOfLogicalProcessors
NumberOfCores  NumberOfLogicalProcessors
2              4

wmic:root\cli>
```

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The fork() and exec() System Calls

fork() : The **fork()** system call is used to create a separate, duplicate process.

exec() : When an **exec()** system call is invoked, the program specified in the parameter to **exec()** will replace the entire process — including all threads.

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```

1#include <stdio.h>
2#include <sys/types.h>
3#include <unistd.h>
4int main()
5{
6    fork(); ✓
7    fork(); ✓
8    fork(); ✓
9    printf("Hello Neso Academy!\n PID =
10
11    return 0;
12}

```

Handwritten process tree diagram:

```

graph TD
    p1((p1)) --> p2((p2))
    p1 --> p3((p3))
    p2 --> p4((p4))
    p2 --> p5((p5))
    p3 --> p6((p6))
    p3 --> p7((p7))
    p4 --> p8((p8))

```

```

jaision@neso-academy ~/Desktop/Fork $ ./a.out
Hello Neso Academy!
PID = 5837
Hello Neso Academy!
PID = 5838
jaision@neso-academy ~/Desktop/Fork $ gcc test.c
jaision@neso-academy ~/Desktop/Fork $ ./a.out
Hello Neso Academy!
PID = 5850
Hello Neso Academy!
PID = 5852
Hello Neso Academy!
PID = 5855
PID = 5851
Hello Neso Academy!
PID = 5853
Hello Neso Academy!
PID = 5857
jaision@neso-academy ~/Desktop/Fork $ Hello Neso Academy!
PID = 5856
Hello Neso Academy!
PID = 5854

```

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The screenshot shows a code editor with a dark theme. The code is a C program named `ex1.c` that includes `<stdio.h>`, `<unistd.h>`, and `<stdlib.h>`. It defines a `main` function that prints the PID of `ex1.c`, sets up an argument array `args` with "Hello", "Neso", and "Academy", and then uses `execv` to execute `./ex2` with these arguments. After `execv`, it prints "Back to ex1.c" and returns 0. Below the code editor is a terminal window titled `jaison@neso-academy ~/Desktop/Exec`. The terminal shows the following commands and output:

```
jaison@neso-academy ~/Desktop/Exec $ gcc ex1.c -o ex1
jaison@neso-academy ~/Desktop/Exec $ gcc ex2.c -o ex2
jaison@neso-academy ~/Desktop/Exec $ ./ex1
PID of ex1.c = 5962
We are in ex2.c
PID of ex2.c = 5962
jaison@neso-academy ~/Desktop/Exec $
```

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Threading Issues (Part-1)

The fork() and exec() System Calls

The semantics of the fork() and exec() system calls change in a multithreaded program.

Issue

If one thread in a program calls fork(), does the new process duplicate all threads, or is the new process single-threaded?

Solution

Some UNIX systems have chosen to have two versions of fork(), one that duplicates all threads and another that duplicates only the thread that invoked the fork() system call.

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Threading Issues (Part-1)

The fork() and exec() System Calls

The semantics of the fork() and exec() system calls change in a multithreaded program.

Issue

If one thread in a program calls fork(), does the new process duplicate all threads, or is the new process single-threaded?

Solution

Some UNIX systems have chosen to have two versions of fork (), one that duplicates all threads and another that duplicates only the thread that invoked the fork () system call.



But which version of fork () to use and when ?

Also, if a thread invokes the exec () system call, the program specified in the parameter to exec () will replace the entire process—including all threads.

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But which version of fork () to use and when ?

Also, if a thread invokes the `exec ()` system call, the program specified in the parameter to `exec ()` will replace the entire process—including all threads.

Which of the two versions of `fork ()` to use depends on the application.

If `exec()` is called immediately after forking

Then duplicating all threads is unnecessary, as the program specified in the parameters to `exec ()` will replace the process.

In this instance, duplicating only the calling thread is appropriate.

If the separate process does not call `exec ()` after forking

Then the separate process should duplicate all threads.

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Threading Issues (Part-2)

Thread Cancellation


Thread cancellation is the task of terminating a thread before it has completed.



If multiple threads are concurrently searching through a database and one thread returns the result, the remaining threads might be canceled.



When a user presses a button on a web browser that stops a web page from loading any further, all threads loading the page are canceled.

A thread that is to be canceled  is often referred to as the **target thread**.

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Cancellation of a target thread may occur in two different scenarios:

1. **Asynchronous cancellation:** One thread immediately terminates the target thread.
 2. **Deferred cancellation:** The target thread periodically checks whether it should terminate, allowing it an opportunity to terminate itself in an orderly fashion.
-

Where the difficulty with cancellation lies:



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Where the difficulty with cancellation lies:

In situations where:

- Resources have been allocated to a canceled thread
- A thread is canceled while in the midst of updating data it is sharing with other threads.

Often, the OS will reclaim system resources from a canceled thread but will not reclaim all resources.

Therefore, canceling a thread asynchronously may not free a necessary system-wide resource.

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Often, the OS will reclaim system resources from a canceled thread but will not reclaim all resources.

Therefore, canceling a thread asynchronously may not free a necessary system-wide resource.

With deferred cancellation:

One thread indicates that a target thread is to be canceled.

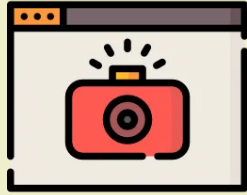
But cancellation occurs only after the target thread has checked a flag to determine if it should be canceled or not.

This allows a thread to check whether it should be canceled at a point when it can be canceled safely.

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