COMP1521 21T2 — Files

https://www.cse.unsw.edu.au/~cs1521/21T2/

Operating system - What Does it Do.

- Operating system sits between the user and the hardware
- Operating system effectively provides a virtual machine to each user
- This virtual machine is much simpler and more convenient than real machine
- The virtual machine interface can be consistent across different hardware.
  - program can portably access hardware across different hardware configurations
  - linux available for almost all suitable hardware
- can coordinate/share access to resources between users
- can provide privileges/security

Operating Systems - What Does it Need from Hardware.

- needs hardware to provide a **privileged** mode which:
  - allows access to all hardware/memory
  - Operating System (kernel) runs in **privileged** mode
  - allows transfer to running code a **non-privileged** mode
- needs hardware to provide a **non-privileged** mode which:
  - prevents access to hardware
  - limits access to memory
  - provides mechanism to make requests to operating system
- operating system requests are called **system calls**
  - system calls transfers execution back to kernel code in **privileged** mode

System Call - What is It

- system call allow programs to request hardware operations
- system call transfers execution to OS code in **privileged** mode
  - includes arguments specifying details of request being made
  - OS checks operation is valid & permitted
  - OS carries out operation
  - transfers execution back to user code in **non-privileged** mode
- different operating system have different system calls
  - e.g Linux provides completley different system calls to Windows
- Linux provides 400+ system calls
- Operations likely to be provide by system calls:
  - read/write bytes to a file
  - request more memory
  - create a process (run a program)
  - terminate a process
  - send or receive information via a network

System Call in SPIM

- SPIM provides a virtual machine which can execute MIPS programs
- SPIM also provides a tiny operating system
- small number of SPIM system calls for I/O and memory allocation
- access is via the **`syscall`** instruction
- MIPS programs running on real hardware also use **`syscall`**
  - on linux **`syscall`**, will pass execution to linux kernel
- SPIM system calls are designed for students writing tiny programs
  - e.g SPIM system call 1 - print an integer
- system calls on real operating systems more general
  - e.g. system call might be write n bytes
- in real operating system library systems calls more general
  - library functions like **`printf`** provide convenient operations

Hello Systems Calls!

```c
// hello world implemented with a direct syscall
#include <unistd.h>
int main(void) {
    char bytes[16] = "Hello, Andrew!\n";
    // argument 1 to syscall is  system call number, 1 == write
    // remaining arguments are specific to each system call
    // write system call takes 3 arguments:
    //   1) file descriptor, 1 == stdout
    //   2) memory address of first byte to write
    //   3) number of bytes to write
    syscall(1, 1, bytes, 15); // prints Hello, Andrew! on stdout
    return 0;
}
```

source code for hello_syscalls.c

Using read & write system calls to copy stdin to stdout

```
// copy stdin to stdout with read & write syscalls
while (1) {
    char bytes[4096];
    // system call number 0 == read
    // read system call takes 3 arguments:
    //   1) file descriptor, 1 == stdin
    //   2) memory address to put bytes read
    //   3) maximum number of bytes read
    // returns number of bytes actually read
    long bytes_read = syscall(0, 0, bytes, 4096);
    if (bytes_read <= 0) {
        break;
    }
    syscall(1, 1, bytes, bytes_read); // prints bytes to stdout
}
```

source code for cat_syscalls.c

What Really are Files and Directories?

- ***file systems*** manage persistent stored data e.g. on magnetic disk or SSD
- On Unix-like systems:
  - a ***file*** is sequence (array) of zero or more bytes.
  - no meaning for bytes associated with file
    - file metadata doesn't record that it is e.g. ASCII, MP4, JPG, ...
    - Unix-like files are just bytes
  - a ***directory*** is an object containing zero or more files or directories.
- file systems maintain metadata for files & directories, e.g. permissions
- system calls provide operations to manipulate files.
- libc provides a low-level API to manipulate files.
- `stdio.h` provides more portable, higher-level API to manipulate files.

Unix-like Files & Directories

- Unix-like filenames are sequences of 1 or more bytes.
  - filenames can contain any byte except **`0x00`** and **`0x2F`**
  - **`0x00`** bytes (ASCII '\0') used to terminate filenames
  - **`0x2F`** bytes (ASCII '/') used to separate components of pathnames.
  - maximum filename length, depends on file system, typically 255
- Two filenames can not be used - they have a special meaning:
  - **`.`** current directory
  - **`..`** parent directory
- Some programs (shell, ls) treat filenames starting with **`.`** specially.
- Unix-like directories are sets of files or directories

Unix/Linux Pathnames

- Files & directories accessed via pathnames, e.g: `/home/z5555555/lab07/main.c`
- *absolute* pathnames start with a leading **/** and give full path from root

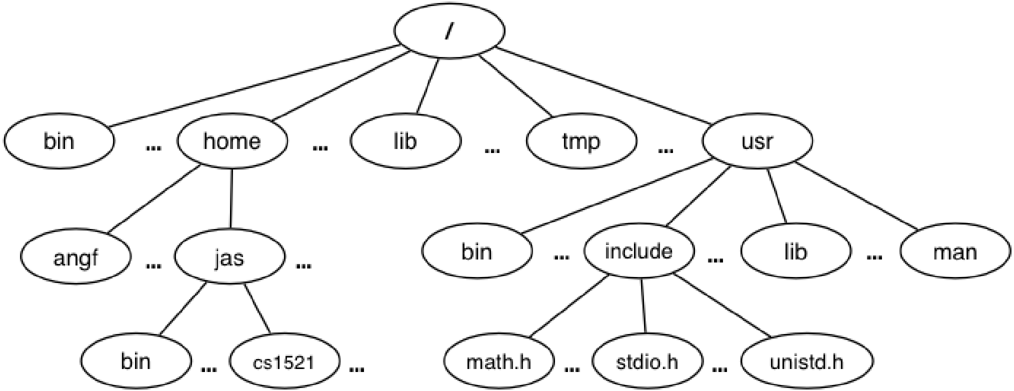
  e.g. `/usr/include/stdio.h`, `/cs1521/public_html/`
- every process (running program) has an associated *absolute* pathname called the *current working directory* (CWD)
- shell command pwd prints CWD
- *relative* pathname do not start with a leading **/** e.g. `../../another/path/prog.c`, `./a.out`, `main.c`
- *relative* pathnames appended to CWD of process using them
- Assume process CWD is `/home/z5555555/lab07/`
  `main.c` translated to absolute path `/home/z5555555/lab07/main.c`
  `../a.out` translated to absolute path `/home/z5555555/lab07/../a.out`
  which is equivalent to absolute path `/home/z5555555/a.out`

Everything is a File

- Originally files only managed data stored on a magnetic disk.
- Unix philosophy is: *Everything is a File*.
- File system can be used to access:
  - files
  - directories (folders)
  - storage devices (disks, SSD, ...)
  - peripherals (keyboard, mouse, USB, ...)
  - system information
  - inter-process communication
  - ...

Unix/Linux File System

Unix/Linux file system is tree-like



- We think of file-system as a *tree*
- But beware if you follow symbolic links it is a *graph*.
  - and you may infinitely loop attempting to traverse a file system

File Metadata

Metadata for file system objects is stored in ***inodes***, which hold

- location of file contents in file systems
- file type (regular file, directory, ...)
- file size in byte
- file ownership
- file access permissions - who can read, write, execute the file
- timestamps - time of creation/access/update

Note: file systems add much complexity to improve performance

- e.g. very small files might be stored in an inode itself

File Inodes

- unix-like file systems effectively have an array of inodes
- every inode has a ***inode-number*** (or ***i-number***)- its index in this array
- directories are effectively a list of (name, inode-number) pairs
- inode-number uniquely identify files within a filesystem
    - just a zid uniquely identifies a student within UNSW
- **`ls -i`** prints *inode-number*, e.g.:

```
$ ls -i file.c
109988273 file.c
$
```

File Access: Behind the Scenes

Access to files by name proceeds (roughly) as...

- open directory and scan for *name*
- if not found, "No such file or directory"
- if found as (*name*,`inumber`), access inode table `inodes[inumber]`
- collect file metadata and...
  - check file access permissions given current user/group
    - if don't have required access, "Permission denied"
  - collect information about file's location and size
  - update access timestamp
- use data in inode to access file contents

Hard Links & Symbolic Links

File system *links* allow multiple paths to access the same file

Hard links

- multiple names referencing the same file (inode)
- the two entries must be on the same filesystem
- all hard links to a file have equal status
- file destroyed when last hard link removed
- can not create a (extra) hard link to directories

Symbolic links (symlinks)

- point to another path name
- acessing the symlink (by default) accesses the file being pointed to
- symbolic link can point to a directory
- symbolic link can point to a pathname on another filesystems
- symbolic links don't have permissions (just a pointer)

Hard Links & Symbolic Links

```
$ echo 'Hello Andrew' >hello
$ ln hello hola         # create hard link
$ ln -s hello selamat # create symbolic link
$ ls -l hello hola selamat
-rw-r--r-- 2 andrewt 13 Oct 23 16:18 hello
-rw-r--r-- 2 andrewt 13 Oct 23 16:18 hola
lrwxrwxrwx 1 andrewt  5 Oct 23 16:20 selamat -> hello
$ cat hello
Hello Andrew
$ cat hola
Hello Andrew
$ cat selamat
Hello Andrew
```

System Calls to Manipulate files

Unix presents a uniform interface to file system objects

- system calls manipulate objects as a *stream of bytes*
- accessed via a *file descriptor*
  - file descriptors are small integers
  - index to a per-process operating system table (array)

Some important system calls:

- **`open()`** — open a file system object, returning a file descriptor
- **`close()`** — stop using a file descriptor
- **`read()`** — read some bytes into a buffer from a file descriptor
- **`write()`** — write some bytes from a buffer to a file descriptor
- **`lseek()`** — move to a specified offset within a file
- **`stat()`** — get file system object metadata

Using system call directly to create a file

```c
// cp <file1> <file2> with syscalls, no error handling!
// system call number 2 == open, takes 3 arguments:
//   1) address of zero-terminated string containing file pathname
//   2) bitmap indicating whether to write, read, ... file
//      0x41 == write to file creating if necessary
//   3) permissions if file will be newly created
//      0644 == readable to everyone, writeable by owner
long read_file_descriptor = syscall(2, argv[1], 0, 0);
long write_file_descriptor = syscall(2, argv[2], 0x41, 0644);
while (1) {
    char bytes[4096];
    long bytes_read = syscall(0, read_file_descriptor, bytes, 4096);
    if (bytes_read <= 0) {
        break;
    }
    syscall(1, write_file_descriptor, bytes, bytes_read);
}
```

source code for cp_syscalls.c

C Library Wrappers for System Calls

- On Unix-like systems there are C library functions corresponding to each system call,
  - e.g. `open`, `read`, `write`, `close`
  - the **`syscall`** function is not used in normal coding
- These functions are not portable - absent from many platforms/implementations
- POSIX standardizes some of these functions
  - some non-Unix systems provide implementations of these functions
- better to use functions from standard C library, available everywhere
  - e.g fopen, fgets, fputc from **`stdio.h`**
  - on unix-like systems these will call `open`, `read`, `write`,
- but sometimes need to use lower level functions

Extra Types for File System Operations

Unix-like (POSIX) systems add some extra file-system-related C types in these include files:

```c
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
```

- **`off_t`** — offsets within files
  - typically **`int64_t`** - signed to allow backward references
- **`size_t`** — number of bytes in some object
  - typically **`uint64_t`** - unsigned since objects can't have negative size
- **`ssize_t`** — sizes of read/written bytes
  - like ***`size_t`**, but signed to allow for error values
- **`struct stat`** — file system object metadata
  - stores information *about* file, not its contents
  - requires other types: `ino_t`, `dev_t`, `time_t`, `uid_t`, ...

C library wrapper for open system call

```
int open(char *pathname, int flags)
```

- open file at **pathname**, according to **flags**
- **flags** is a bit-mask defined in <fcntl.h>
  - O_RDONLY — open for reading
  - O_WRONLY — open for writing
  - O_APPEND — append on each write
  - O_RDWR — open object for reading and writing
  - O_CREAT — create file if doesn't exist
  - O_TRUNC — truncate to size 0
- flags can be combined e.g. (O_WRONLY|O_CREAT)
- if successful, return file descriptor (small non-negative int)
- if unsuccessful, return **-1** and set **errno**

C library wrapper for close system call

```
int close(int fd)
```

- release open file descriptor **fd**
- if successful, return `0`
- if unsuccessful, return `-1` and set **errno**
  - could be unsuccessful if **fd** is not an open file descriptor

    e.g. if **fd** has already been closed

An aside: removing a file e.g. via `rm`

- removes the file's entry from a directory
- but the inode and data persist until
  - all references to the inode from other directories are removed
  - all processes accessing the file `close()` their file descriptor
- after this, the inode and the space used for file contents is recycled

C library wrapper for read system call

```c
ssize_t read(int fd, void *buf, size_t count)
```

- read (up to) **count** bytes from **fd** into **buf**
  - **buf** should point to array of at least **count** bytes
  - read does (can) not check **buf** points to enough space
- if successful, number of bytes actually read is returned
- 0 returned, if no more bytes to read
- -1 returned if error and `errno` set to reason
- next call to **read** will return next bytes from file
- repeated calls to reads will yield entire contents of file
  - associated with a file descriptor is "current position" in file
  - can also modify this position with `lseek`

C library wrapper for write system call

```
ssize_t write(int fd, const void *buf, size_t count)
```

- attempt to write **count** bytes from *buf* into

  stream identified by file descriptor **`fd`**
- if successful, number of bytes actually written is returned
- if unsuccessful, return −1 and set **`errno`**
- does (can) not check **buf** points to **count** bytes of data
- next call to **write** will follow bytes already written
- file often created by repeated calls to write
  - associated with a file descriptor is "current position" in file
  - can also modify this position with **`lseek`**

Hello write!

```c
// hello world implemented with libc
#include <unistd.h>
int main(void) {
    char bytes[16] = "Hello, Andrew!\n";
    // write takes 3 arguments:
    //   1) file descriptor, 1 == stdout
    //   2) memory address of first byte to write
    //   3) number of bytes to write
    write(1, bytes, 15); // prints Hello, Andrew! on stdout
    return 0;
}
```

source code for hello_libc.c

Using read & write to copy stdin to stdout

```
while (1) {
    char bytes[4096];
    // system call number 0 == read
    // read system call takes 3 arguments:
    //   1) file descriptor, 1 == stdin
    //   2) memory address to put bytes read
    //   3) maximum number of bytes read
    // returns number of bytes actually read
    ssize_t bytes_read = read(0, bytes, 4096);
    if (bytes_read <= 0) {
        break;
    }
    write(1, bytes, bytes_read); // prints bytes to stdout
}
```

source code for cat_libc.c

Using open to copy a file

```c
// open takes 3 arguments:
//   1) address of zero-terminated string containing pathname of file to open
//   2) bitmap indicating whether to write, read, ... file
//   3) permissions if file will be newly created
//      0644 == readable to everyone, writeable by owner
int read_file_descriptor = open(argv[1], O_RDONLY);
int write_file_descriptor = open(argv[2], O_WRONLY | O_CREAT, 0644);
while (1) {
    char bytes[4096];
    ssize_t bytes_read = read(read_file_descriptor, bytes, 4096);
    if (bytes_read <= 0) {
        break;
    }
    write(write_file_descriptor, bytes, bytes_read);
}
```

source code for cp_libc.c

C library wrapper for lseek system call

```
off_t lseek(int fd, off_t offset, int whence)
```

- change the 'current position' in the file of **fd**
- **offset** is in units of bytes, and can be negative
- **whence** can be one of ...
  - `SEEK_SET` — set file position to *Offset* from start of file
  - `SEEK_CUR` — set file position to *Offset* from current position
  - `SEEK_END` — set file position to *Offset* from end of file
- seeking beyond end of file leaves a gap which reads as 0's
- seeking back beyond start of file sets position to start of file

Example: `lseek(fd, 0, SEEK_END);` (move to end of file)

Using lseek to read the last byte then the first byte of a file

```c
int read_file_descriptor = open(argv[1], O_RDONLY);
char bytes[1];
// move to a position 1 byte from end of file
// then read 1 byte
lseek(read_file_descriptor, -1, SEEK_END);
read(read_file_descriptor, bytes, 1);
printf("last byte of the file is 0x%02x\n", bytes[0]);
// move to a position 0 bytes from start of file
// then read 1 byte
lseek(read_file_descriptor, 0, SEEK_SET);
read(read_file_descriptor, bytes, 1);
printf("first byte of the file is 0x%02x\n", bytes[0]);
```

source code for lseek.c

Using lseek to read bytes in the middle of a file

```
printf("first byte of the file is 0x%02x\n", bytes[0]);
// move to a position 41 bytes from start of file
// then read 1 byte
lseek(read_file_descriptor, 41, SEEK_SET);
read(read_file_descriptor, bytes, 1);
printf("42nd byte of the file is 0x%02x\n", bytes[0]);
// move to a position 58 bytes from current position
// then read 1 byte
lseek(read_file_descriptor, 58, SEEK_CUR);
read(read_file_descriptor, bytes, 1);
printf("100th byte of the file is 0x%02x\n", bytes[0]);
```

source code for lseek.c

stdio.h - C Standard Library I/O Functions

- `stdio.h` is part of standard C library
- available in every C implementation that can do I/O
- `stdio.h` functions are portable, convenient & efficient
- use them by default for file operations
- on Unix-like systems they will call open/read/write/...
    - but with buffering for efficiency

stdio.h - fopen/fclose

```
FILE *fopen(const char *pathname, const char *mode)
```

- `stdio.h` equivalent to `open`
- **mode** is string of 1 or more characters including:
    - **r** open text file for reading.
    - **w** open text file for writing truncated to 0 zero length if it exists created if does not exist
    - **a** open text file for writing writes append to it if it exists created if does not exist
- fopen returns a **FILE *** pointer
- **FILE** is an opaque struct - we can not access fields

```
int fclose(FILE *stream)
```

- `stdio.h` equivalent to `close`

stdio.h - read and writing

```
int fgetc(FILE *stream)           // read a byte
int fputc(int c, FILE *stream)    // write a byte

char *fputs(char *s, FILE *stream) // write a string

char *fgets(char *s, int size, FILE *stream) // read a line

// formatted input
int fscanf(FILE *stream, const char *format, ...)
// formatted output
int fprintf(FILE *stream, const char *format, ...)

// read array of bytes (fgetc + loop often better)
size_t fread(void *ptr, size_t size, size_t nmemb, FILE *stream);
// write array of bytes (fputc + loop often better)
size_t fwrite(const void *ptr, size_t size, size_t nmemb,
              FILE *stream)
```

```c
char bytes[] = "Hello, stdio!\n"; // 15 bytes
// write 14 bytes so we don't write (terminating) 0 byte
for (int i = 0; i < (sizeof bytes) - 1; i++) {
    fputc(bytes[i], stdout);
}
// or as we know bytes is 0-terminated
for (int i = 0; bytes[i] != '\0'; i++) {
    fputc(bytes[i], stdout);
}
// or if you prefer pointers
for (char *p = &bytes[0]; *p != '\0'; p++) {
    fputc(*p, stdout);
}
```

source code for hello_stdio.c

stdio.h - using fputs, fwrite & fprintf to output bytes

```c
char bytes[] = "Hello, stdio!\n"; // 15 bytes
```

```c
// fputs relies on bytes being 0-terminated
fputs(bytes, stdout);
// write 14 1 byte items
fwrite(bytes, 1, (sizeof bytes) - 1, stdout);
// %s relies on bytes being 0-terminated
fprintf(stdout, "%s", bytes);
```

source code for hello_stdio.c

stdio.h - using fgetc to copy stdin to stdout

```
// c can not be char (common bug)
// fgetc returns 0..255 and EOF (usually -1)
int c;
// return  bytes from the stream (stdin) one at a time
while ((c = fgetc(stdin)) != EOF) {
    fputc(c, stdout); // write the byte to standard output
}
```

source code for cat_fgetc.c

stdio.h - using fgets to copy stdin to stdout

```c
// return  bytes from the stream (stdin) line at a time
// BUFSIZ is defined in stdio.h - its an efficient value to use
// but any value would work
char line[BUFSIZ];
while (fgets(line, sizeof line, stdin) != NULL) {
    fputs(line, stdout);
}
//
// NOTE: fgets returns a null-terminated string
//       in other words a 0 byte marks the end of the bytes read
//
// fgets can not be used to read bytes which are 0
// fputs takes a null-terminated string
// so fputs can not be used to write bytes which are 0
// hence you can't use fget/fputs for binary data e.g. jpgs
```

source code for cat_fgets.c

stdio.h - using fwrite to copy stdin to stdout

```
while (1) {
    char bytes[4096];
    ssize_t bytes_read = fread(bytes, 1, sizeof bytes, stdin);
    if (bytes_read <= 0) {
        break;
    }
    fwrite(bytes, 1, bytes_read, stdout);
}
```

source code for cat_fwrite.c

stdio.h - creating a file

```c
// create file "hello.txt" containing 1 line: Hello, Andrew
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    FILE *output_stream = fopen("hello.txt", "w");
    if (output_stream == NULL) {
        perror("hello.txt");
        return 1;
    }
    fprintf(output_stream, "Hello, Andrew!\n");
    // fclose will flush data to file
    // best to close file ASAP
    // but doesn't matter as file autoamtically closed on exit
    fclose(output_stream);
    return 0;
}
```

source code for create_file_fopen.c

stdio.h - using fgetc to copy a file

```
FILE *input_stream = fopen(argv[1], "rb");
if (input_stream == NULL) {
    perror(argv[1]);  // prints why the open failed
    return 1;
}
FILE *output_stream = fopen(argv[2], "wb");
if (output_stream == NULL) {
    perror(argv[2]);
    return 1;
}
int c; // not char!
while ((c = fgetc(input_stream)) != EOF) {
    fputc(c, output_stream);
}
fclose(input_stream);  // optional as close occurs
fclose(output_stream); // automatically on exit
```

source code for cp_fgetc.c

stdio.h - using fwrite to copy a file

```
FILE *input_stream = fopen(argv[1], "rb");
```

```
FILE *output_stream = fopen(argv[2], "wb");
```

```
// this will be slightly faster than an a fgetc/fputc loop
while (1) {
    char bytes[BUFSIZ];
    size_t bytes_read = fread(bytes, 1, sizeof bytes, input_stream);
    if (bytes_read <= 0) {
        break;
    }
    fwrite(bytes, 1, bytes_read, output_stream);
}
fclose(input_stream);  // optional as close occurs
fclose(output_stream); // automatically on exit
```

source code for cp_fwrite.c

stdio.h - other operations

```
int fseek(FILE *stream, long offset, int whence);
```

- **fseek** is stdio equivalent to lseek
- like `lseek` **offset** can be postive or negative
- like `lseek` **whence** can be `SEEK_SET`, `SEEK_CUR` or `SEEK_END` making **offset** relative to file start, current position or file end

```
int fflush(FILE *stream);
```

- flush any buffered data on output stream

Using fseek to read the last byte then the first byte of a file

```
FILE *input_stream = fopen(argv[1], "rb");
// move to a position 1 byte from end of file
// then read 1 byte
fseek(input_stream, -1, SEEK_END);
printf("last byte of the file is 0x%02x\n", fgetc(input_stream));
// move to a position 0 bytes from start of file
// then read 1 byte
fseek(input_stream, 0, SEEK_SET);
printf("first byte of the file is 0x%02x\n", fgetc(input_stream));
```

source code for fseek.c

- NOTE: important error checking is missing above

Using fseek to read bytes in the middle of a file

```
// move to a position 41 bytes from start of file
// then read 1 byte
fseek(input_stream, 41, SEEK_SET);
printf("42nd byte of the file is 0x%02x\n", fgetc(input_stream));
// move to a position 58 bytes from current position
// then read 1 byte
fseek(input_stream, 58, SEEK_CUR);
printf("100th byte of the file is 0x%02x\n", fgetc(input_stream));
```

source code for fseek.c

- NOTE: important error checking is missing above

Using fseek to change a random file bit

```
FILE *f = fopen(argv[1], "r+");      // open for reading and writing
fseek(f, 0, SEEK_END);               // move to end of file
long n_bytes = ftell(f);             // get number of bytes in file
srandom(time(NULL));                 // initialize random number
                                     // generator with current time
long target_byte = random() % n_bytes; // pick a random byte
fseek(f, target_byte, SEEK_SET);    // move to byte
int byte = fgetc(f);                // read byte
int bit = random() % 8;             // pick a random bit
int new_byte = byte ^ (1 << bit);   // flip the bit
fseek(f, -1, SEEK_CUR);             // move back to same position
fputc(new_byte, f);                 // write the byte
fclose(f);
```

source code for fuzz.c

- random changes to search for errors/vulnerabilities called fuzzing

Using fseek to create a gigantic sparse file (advanced topic)

```
// Create a 16 terabyte sparse file
// https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sparse_file
// error checking omitted for clarity
#include <stdio.h>
int main(void) {
    FILE *f = fopen("sparse_file.txt", "w");
    fprintf(f, "Hello, Andrew!\n");
    fseek(f, 16L * 1000 * 1000 * 1000 * 1000, SEEK_CUR);
    fprintf(f, "Goodbye, Andrew!\n");
    fclose(f);
    return 0;
}
```

source code for create_gigantic_file.c

- almost all the 16Tb are zeros which the file system doesn't actually store

stdio.h - convenience functions for stdin/stdout

- as we often read/write to stdin/stdout `stdio.h` provides convenience functions, we can use:

```
int getchar()        // fgetc(stdin)
int putchar(int c)   // fputc(c, stdin)

int puts(char *s)    // fputs(s,stdout)

int scanf(char *format, ...)   // fscanf(stdin, format, ...)
int printf(char *format, ...)  // fprintf(stdout, format, ...)

char *gets(char *s); // NEVER USE
```

stdio.h - I/O to strings

`stdio.h` provides useful functions which operate on strings

```
int snprintf(char *str, size_t size, const char *format, ...);
```

- like printf, but output goes to char array **str**
- handy for creating strings passed to other functions
- do not use unsafe related function: ‘sprintf

```
int sscanf(const char *str, const char *format, ...);
```

- like scanf, but input comes from char array **str**

```
int sprintf(char *str, const char *format, ...); // DO NOT USE
```

- like **snprintf** but dangerous because can overflow **str**

C library wrapper for stat system call

```
int stat(const char *pathname, struct stat *statbuf)
```

- retaurns metadata associated with **pathname** in **statbuf**
- metadata returned includes:
  - inode number
  - type (file, directory, symbolic link, device)
  - size of file in bytes (if it is a file)
  - permissions (read, write, execute)
  - times of last access/modification/status-change
- returns -1 and sets **`errno`** if metadata not accessible

```
int fstat(int fd, struct stat *statbuf)
```

- same as `stat()` but gets data via an open file descriptor

```
int lstat(const char *pathname, struct stat *statbuf)`
```

- same as `stat()` but doesn't follow symbolic links

definition of struct stat

```c
struct stat {
  dev_t     st_dev;         /* ID of device containing file */
  ino_t     st_ino;         /* Inode number */
  mode_t    st_mode;        /* File type and mode */
  nlink_t   st_nlink;       /* Number of hard links */
  uid_t     st_uid;         /* User ID of owner */
  gid_t     st_gid;         /* Group ID of owner */
  dev_t     st_rdev;        /* Device ID (if special file) */
  off_t     st_size;        /* Total size, in bytes */
  blksize_t st_blksize;     /* Block size for filesystem I/O */
  blkcnt_t  st_blocks;      /* Number of 512B blocks allocated */
  struct timespec st_atim;  /* Time of last access */
  struct timespec st_mtim;  /* Time of last modification */
  struct timespec st_ctim;  /* Time of last status change */
};
```

st_mode field of struct stat

st_mode is a bitwise-or of these values (& others):

```
S_IFLNK    0120000   symbolic link
S_IFREG    0100000   regular file
S_IFBLK    0060000   block device
S_IFDIR    0040000   directory
S_IFCHR    0020000   character device
S_IFIFO    0010000   FIFO
S_IRUSR    0000400   owner has read permission
S_IWUSR    0000200   owner has write permission
S_IXUSR    0000100   owner has execute permission
S_IRGRP    0000040   group has read permission
S_IWGRP    0000020   group has write permission
S_IXGRP    0000010   group has execute permission
S_IROTH    0000004   others have read permission
S_IWOTH    0000002   others have write permission
S_IXOTH    0000001   others have execute permission
```

Using stat

```
struct stat s;
if (stat(pathname, &s) != 0) {
    perror(pathname);
    exit(1);
}
printf("ino =  %10ld # Inode number\n", s.st_ino);
printf("mode = %10o # File mode \n", s.st_mode);
printf("nlink =%10ld # Link count \n", (long)s.st_nlink);
printf("uid =  %10u # Owner uid\n", s.st_uid);
printf("gid =  %10u # Group gid\n", s.st_gid);
printf("size = %10ld # File size (bytes)\n", (long)s.st_size);
printf("mtime =%10ld # Modification time (seconds since 1/1/70)\n",
       (long)s.st_mtime);
```

source code for stat.c

mkdir

```
int mkdir(const char *pathname, mode_t mode)
```

- create a new directory called **pathname** with permissions **mode**
- if **pathname** is e.g. `a/b/c/d`
  - all of the directories a, b and c must exist
  - directory c must be writeable to the caller
  - directory d must not already exist
- the new directory contains two initial entries
  - `.` is a reference to itself
  - `..` is a reference to its parent directory
- returns 0 if successful, returns -1 and sets `errno` otherwise

for example:

```
    mkdir("newDir", 0755);
```

Example of using mkdir to create directories

```c
#include <stdio.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
// create the directories specified as command-line arguments
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    for (int arg = 1; arg < argc; arg++) {
        if (mkdir(argv[arg], 0755) != 0) {
            perror(argv[arg]);  // prints why the mkdir failed
            return 1;
        }
    }
    return 0;
}
```

source code for mkdir.c

Other useful Linux (POSIX) functions

```c
chmod(char *pathname, mode_t mode) // change permission of file/...

unlink(char *pathname) // remove a file/directory/...

rename(char *oldpath, char *newpath) // rename a file/directory

chdir(char *path)  // change current working directory

getcwd(char *buf, size_t size) // get current working directory

link(char *oldpath, char *newpath) // create hard link to a file

symlink(char *target, char *linkpath) // create a symbolic link
```

file permissions

- file permissions are separated into three types:
  - **read * - permission to get bytes of file
  - **write* - permission to change bytes of file
  - **execute* - permission to execute file
- read/write/execute often represented as bits of an octal digit
- file permissions are specified for 3 groups of users:
  - **owner** - permissions for the file owner
  - **group** - permissions for users in the group of the file
  - **other** - permissions for any other user

```c
// first argument is mode in octal
mode_t mode = strtol(argv[1], &end, 8);
// check first argument was a valid octal number
if (argv[1][0] == '\0' || end[0] != '\0') {
    fprintf(stderr, "%s: invalid mode: %s\n", argv[0], argv[1]);
    return 1;
}
for (int arg = 2; arg < argc; arg++) {
    if (chmod(argv[arg], mode) != 0) {
        perror(argv[arg]);  // prints why the chmod failed
        return 1;
    }
}
```

source code for chmod.c

removing files

```c
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    for (int arg = 1; arg < argc; arg++) {
        if (unlink(argv[arg]) != 0) {
            perror(argv[arg]);  // prints why the unlink failed
            return 1;
        }
    }
    return 0;
}
```

source code for rm.c

```
$ dcc rm.c
$ ./a.out rm.c
$ ls -l rm.c
ls: cannot access 'rm.c': No such file or directory
```

renaming a file

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    if (argc != 3) {
        fprintf(stderr, "Usage: %s <old-filename> <new-filename>\n",
                argv[0]);
        return 1;
    }
    char *old_filename = argv[1];
    char *new_filename = argv[2];
    if (rename(old_filename, new_filename) != 0) {
        fprintf(stderr, "%s rename %s %s:", argv[0], old_filename,
                new_filename);
        perror("");
        return 1;
    }
    return 0;
}
```

source code for rename.c

cd-ing up one directory at a time

```
// use repeated chdir("..") to climb to root of the file system
char pathname[PATH_MAX];
while (1) {
    if (getcwd(pathname, sizeof pathname) == NULL) {
        perror("getcwd");
        return 1;
    }
    printf("getcwd() returned %s\n", pathname);
    if (strcmp(pathname, "/") == 0) {
        return 0;
    }
    if (chdir("..") != 0) {
        perror("chdir");
        return 1;
    }
}
```

source code for getcwd.c

making a 1000-deep directory

```c
for (int i = 0; i < 1000;i++) {
    char dirname[256];
    snprintf(dirname, sizeof dirname, "d%d", i);
    if (mkdir(dirname, 0755) != 0) {
        perror(dirname);
        return 1;
    }
    if (chdir(dirname) != 0) {
        perror(dirname);
        return 1;
    }
    char pathname[1000000];
    if (getcwd(pathname, sizeof pathname) == NULL) {
        perror("getcwd");
        return 1;
    }
    printf("\nCurrent directory now: %s\n", pathname);
}
```

source code for nest_directories.c

creating 1000 hard links to a file (creating the file)

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    char pathname[256] = "hello.txt";
    // create a target file
    FILE *f1;
    if ((f1 = fopen(pathname, "w")) == NULL) {
        perror(pathname);
        return 1;
    }
    fprintf(f1, "Hello Andrew!\n");
    fclose(f1);
```

source code for many_links.c

creating 1000 hard links to a file (checking the file)

```
for (int i = 0; i < 1000; i++) {
    printf("Verifying '%s' contains: ", pathname);
    FILE *f2;
    if ((f2 = fopen(pathname, "r")) == NULL) {
        perror(pathname);
        return 1;
    }
    int c;
    while ((c = fgetc(f2)) != EOF) {
        fputc(c, stdout);
    }
    fclose(f2);
```

source code for many_links.c

creating 1000 hard links to a file (creating a link)

```c
        char new_pathname[256];
        snprintf(new_pathname, sizeof new_pathname,
                 "hello_%d.txt", i);
        printf("Creating a link %s -> %s\n",
               new_pathname, pathname);
        if (link(pathname, new_pathname) != 0) {
            perror(pathname);
            return 1;
        }
    }
    return 0;
}
```

source code for many_links.c

POSIX functions to access directory contents (advanced)

```c
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <dirent.h>

// open a directory stream for directory name
DIR *opendir(const char *name);

// return a pointer to next directory entry
struct dirent *readdir(DIR *dirp);

// close a directory stream
int closedir(DIR *dirp);
```

Using opendir/readdir to print directory contents (advanced)

```
for (int arg = 1; arg < argc; arg++) {
    DIR *dirp = opendir(argv[arg]);
    if (dirp == NULL) {
        perror(argv[arg]);  // prints why the open failed
        return 1;
    }
    struct dirent *de;
    while ((de = readdir(dirp)) != NULL) {
        printf("%ld %s\n", de->d_ino, de->d_name);
    }
    closedir(dirp);
}
```

source code for list_directory.c

writing an array as binary data (using fwrite)

```
int array[10] = { 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 };
FILE *f = fopen("array.save", "w");
if (f == NULL) {
    perror("array.save");
    return 1;
}
// assuming int are 4 bytes, this will
// write 40 bytes of array to "array.save"
if (fwrite(array, 1, sizeof array, f) != sizeof array) {
    perror("array.save");
    return 1;
}
fclose(f);
```

source code for write_array.c

reading an array as binary data (using fread)

```
int array[10];
FILE *f = fopen("array.save", "r");
if (f == NULL) {
    perror("array.save");
    return 1;
}
// read array: NOT-PORTABLE: depends on size of int and byte-order
if (fread(array, 1, sizeof array, f) != sizeof array) {
    perror("array.save");
    return 1;
}
fclose(f);
for (int i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
    printf("%d ", array[i]);
}
printf("\n");
```

source code for read_array.c

writing a pointer as binary data (using fwrite)

```
int array[10] = { 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 };
int *p = &array[5];
FILE *f = fopen("array.save", "w");
```

```
if (fwrite(array, 1, sizeof array, f) != sizeof array) {
    perror("array.save");
    return 1;
}
if (fwrite(&p, 1, sizeof p, f) != sizeof p) {
    perror("array.save");
    return 1;
}
fclose(f);
```

source code for write_pointer.c

reading a pointer as binary data (using fread)

```
int array[10];
int *p;
FILE *f = fopen("array.save", "r");
```

```
if (fread(array, 1, sizeof array, f) != sizeof array) {
    perror("array.save");
    return 1;
}
// BROKEN - address of array has almost certainly  changed
// BROKEN - so address p needs to point has changed
if (fread(&p, 1, sizeof p, f) != sizeof p) {
    perror("array.save");
    return 1;
}
fclose(f);
```

source code for read_pointer.c

I/O Performance & Buffering - Copying One Byte Per Time

```c
int read_file_descriptor = open(argv[1], O_RDONLY);
int write_file_descriptor = open(argv[2], O_WRONLY | O_CREAT, 0644);
// copy bytes 1 at a time
while (1) {
    char bytes[1];
    ssize_t bytes_read = read(read_file_descriptor, bytes, 1);
    if (bytes_read <= 0) {
        break;
    }
    write(write_file_descriptor, bytes, 1);
}
```

source code for cp_libc_one_byte.c

- similar to earlier example source code for cp_libc.c but one byte at time

I/O Performance & Buffering - Copying One Byte Per Time

```
$ clang -O3 cp_libc_one_byte.c -o cp_libc_one_byte
$ dd bs=1M count=10 </dev/urandom >random_file
10485760 bytes (10 MB, 10 MiB) copied, 0.183075 s, 57.3 MB/s
$ time ./cp_libc_one_byte random_file random_file_copy
real  0m5.262s
user  0m0.432s
sys   0m4.826s
```

- much slower than previous version which copies 4096 bytes at a time

```
$ clang -O3 cp_libc.c -o cp_libc
$  time ./cp_libc random_file random_file_copy
real  0m0.008s
user  0m0.001s
sys   0m0.007s
```

- main reason - system calls are expensive

I/O Performance & Buffering - stdio Copying 1 Byte Per Time

```c
FILE *input_stream = fopen(argv[1], "rb");
if (input_stream == NULL) {
    perror(argv[1]);  // prints why the open failed
    return 1;
}
FILE *output_stream = fopen(argv[2], "wb");
if (output_stream == NULL) {
    perror(argv[2]);
    return 1;
}
int c; // not char!
while ((c = fgetc(input_stream)) != EOF) {
    fputc(c, output_stream);
}
fclose(input_stream);  // optional as close occurs
fclose(output_stream); // automatically on exit
```

source code for cp_fgetc.c

I/O Performance & Buffering - stdio Copying 1 Byte Per Time

```
$ clang -O3 cp_fgetc.c -o cp_fgetc
$ time ./cp_fgetc random_file random_file_copy
real  0m0.059s
user  0m0.042s
sys   0m0.009s
```

- at the user level copies 1 byte at time using `fgetc`/`fputc`
- much faster that coping 1 byte at time using `read`/`write`
- little slower than coping 4096 bytes at time using `read`/`write`
- how?

I/O Performance & Buffering - stdio buffering

- assume stdio buffering size (`BUFSIZ`) is `4096` (typical)
- stdio **buffers** 1 byte `fgetc`/`fputc` into 4096 bytes `read`/`write`
- first `fgetc` reads 4096 bytes into an array (input ***buffer***)
    - next 4095 `fgetc` calls get byte from array
- first 4095 `fputc` put bytes into another array (output ***buffer***)
    - next 4095 `fgetc` get byte from array
- output buffer* emptied by **`exit`** or `main` returning
- data in output buffer
- program can force empty of output buffer with **`fflush`** call

reimplementing stdio.h no buffering - struct

```c
// re-implementation of stdio functions fopen, fgetc, fputc, fclose
// with no buffering and *zero* error handling for clarity
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <sys/stat.h>
#include <fcntl.h>
#include <stdint.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <assert.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#define MY_EOF -1
// struct to hold data for a stream
typedef struct my_file {
    int fd;
} my_file_t;
```

source code for cp_unbuffered.c

reimplementing stdio.h no buffering - my_fopen

```
my_file_t *my_fopen(char *file, char *mode) {
    int fd = -1;
    if (mode[0] == 'r') {
        fd = open(file, O_RDONLY);
    } else if (mode[0] == 'w') {
        fd = open(file, O_WRONLY | O_CREAT, 0666);
    } else if (mode[0] == 'a') {
        fd = open(file, O_WRONLY | O_APPEND);
    }
    if (fd == -1) {
        return NULL;
    }
    my_file_t *f = malloc(sizeof *f);
    f->fd = fd;
    return f;
}
```

source code for cp_unbuffered.c

reimplementing stdio.h no buffering - - my_fgetc

```
int my_fgetc(my_file_t *f) {
    uint8_t byte;
    int bytes_read = read(f->fd, &byte, 1);
    if (bytes_read == 1) {
        return byte;
    } else {
        return MY_EOF;
    }
}
```

source code for cp_unbuffered.c

reimplementing stdio.h no buffering - - my_fputc

```c
int my_fputc(int c, my_file_t *f) {
    uint8_t byte = c;
    if (write(f->fd, &byte, 1) == 1) {
        return byte;
    } else {
        return MY_EOF;
    }
}
```

source code for cp_unbuffered.c

reimplementing stdio.h no buffering - - my_fclose

```
int my_fclose(my_file_t *f) {
    int result = close(f->fd);
    free(f);
    return result;
}
```

source code for cp_unbuffered.c

reimplementing stdio.h - buffering (advanced topic)

- reimplementing stdio with input buffering

source code for cp_input_buffered.c

- and output buffering

source code for cp_output_buffered.c

File System Summary

Operating systems provide a *file system*

- as an abstraction over physical storage devices (e.g. disks)
- providing named access to chunks of related data (files)
- providing access (sequential/random) to the contents of files
- allowing files to be arranged in a hierarchy of directories
- providing control over access to files and directories
- managing other metadata associated with files (size, location, ...)

Operating systems also manage other resources

- memory, processes, processor time, i/o devices, networking, ...