# Introduction to Resource Managers



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#### Introduction



## You will learn:

- what a resource manager is
- how to use the QNX Neutrino resource manager framework:
  - initialization
  - · handling read and write

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## **Introduction to Resource Managers**



# Topics:

→ Overview

## A Simple Resource Manager

- Initialization
- Handling read() and write()

## Conclusion

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# What is a resource manager?

- a program that looks like it is extending the operating system by:
  - creating and managing a name in the pathname space
  - providing a POSIX interface for clients (e.g. open(), read(), write(), ...)
- can be associated with hardware (such as a serial port, or disk drive)
- or can be a purely software entity (such as queuing or logging)

## Let's take a look at the pathname space

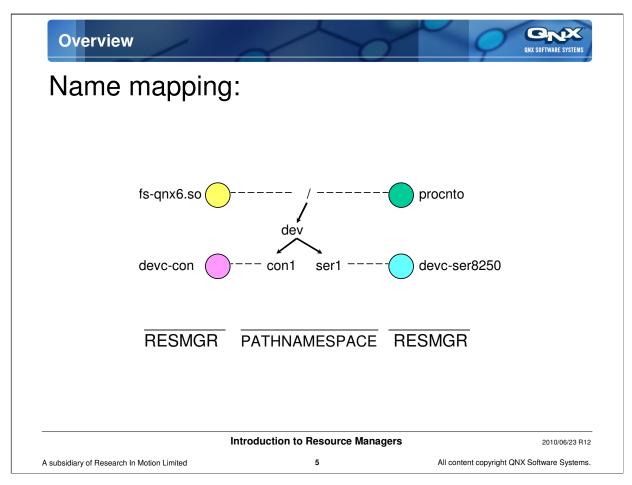
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- is the root of the pathname space
  - every name in the pathname space is a descendant of some entry in the prefix tree
- is maintained by the Process Manager
  - · stored as a table
- Resource Managers add and delete entries
- associates a nd, pid, chid, handle with a name
- is searched for the longest slash-delimited whole-word matching prefix

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#### NOTES:

The handle is used by the resource manager library when a resource manager has more than one name registered. The handle is used to distinguish between the names.



# For example, to resolve the pathname: /dev/ser1

The longest match is /dev/ser1, which points to devc-ser8250

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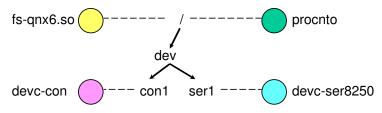
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## Or,

# /home/bill/spud.dat

fd = open("/home/bill/spud.dat",...);



The longest match is /, which points to procnto and fs-qnx6.so. procnto would fail the open, and fs-qnx6.so would then handle requests.

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# A Client requests a service:

which results in the client's library code (ultimately "open") sending a message to the process manager...

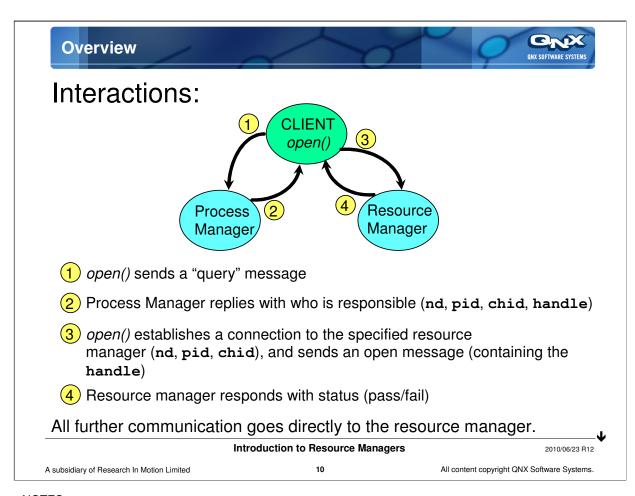
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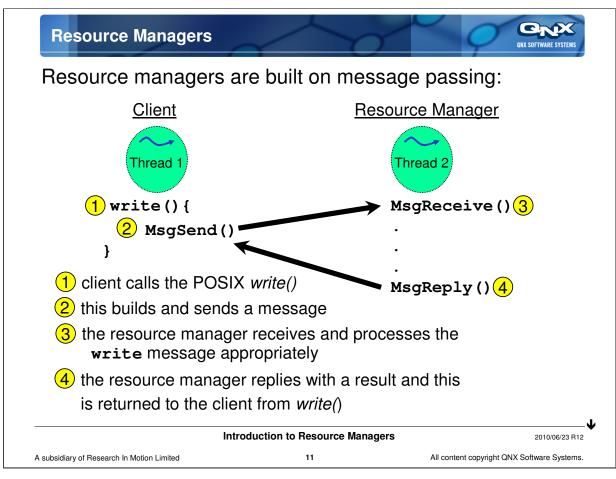
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#### NOTES:

The application doesn't have to worry about these details -- it's all handled by the *open()* function in the C shared library.

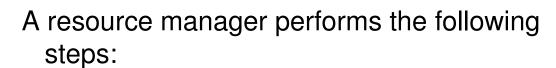
How does open() find the process manager? Simple, it's a well known nd, pid, chid.



#### NOTES:

Most of the standard operating service programming interfaces are based on message passing in this way, including:

- -read()
- write()
- readdir()
- stat()
- -close()
- devctl()



- creates a channel
- takes over a portion of the pathname space
- waits for messages & events
- processes messages, returns results

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# There are three major types of messages:

## Connect messages:

- pathname-based (eg: open ("spud.dat", ...))
- may create an association between the client process and the resource manager, which is used later for I/O messages

## I/O messages:

- file-descriptor- (fd-) based (eg: read (fd, ...))
- rely on association created previously by connect messages

#### Other:

pulses, private messages, etc

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# Connect Messages:

message client call

\_IO\_OPEN open()

\_IO\_UNLINK unlink()

\_IO\_RENAME rename()

## Defined in <sys/iomsg.h>

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# I/O Messages (frequently used):

message client call

\_IO\_READ read()

\_IO\_WRITE write()

\_IO\_DEVCTL devctl(), ioctl()

## Defined in <sys/iomsg.h>

continued...

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I/O Messages (continued):

\_IO\_NOTIFY, \_IO\_STAT,

\_IO\_UNBLOCK, \_IO\_PATHCONF,

\_IO\_LSEEK, \_IO\_CHMOD,

\_IO\_CHOWN, \_IO\_UTIME,

\_IO\_LINK, \_IO\_FDINFO,

\_IO\_LOCK, \_IO\_TRUNCATE,

\_IO\_SHUTDOWN, \_IO\_DUP

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#### **Resource Manager Library**



Writing resource managers is simplified greatly with a resource-manager shared library that:

- simplifies main receive loop (table-driven approach)
- has default actions for any message types that do not have handlers specified in tables

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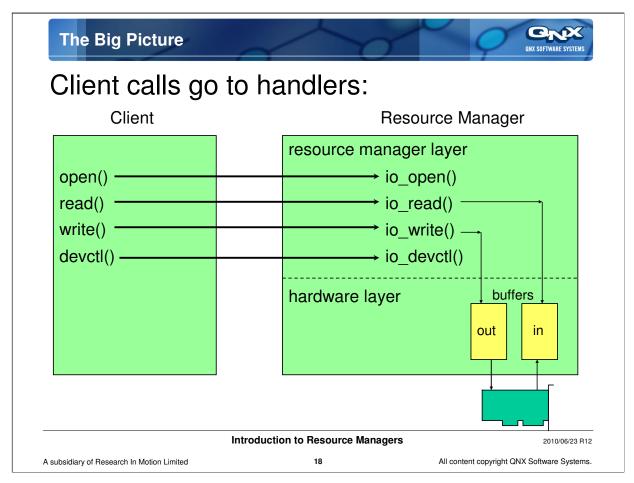
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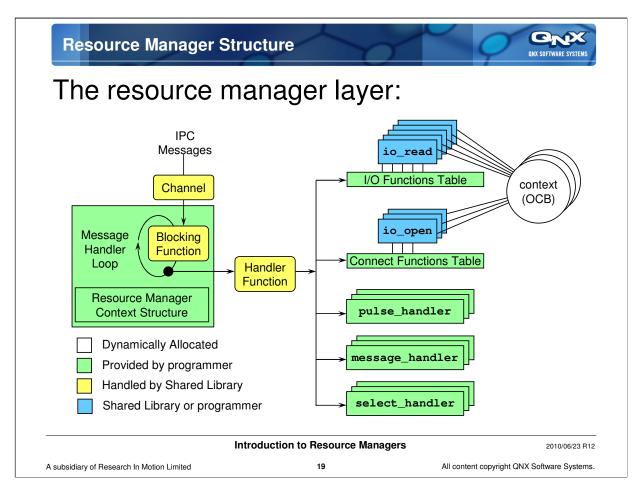
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#### NOTES:

The resource manager shared library is part of libc.so.





## **Introduction to Resource Managers**



# Topics:

## **Overview**

## A Simple Resource Manager



- Initialization
- Handling read() and write()

## Conclusion

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#### The example Resource Manager



To talk about setting up a resource manager, we'll use an **example** resource manager:

## Client side:

- Here's how it behaves from a client's point of view:
  - read always returns 0 bytes
  - write of any size always works
  - · other things behave as expected

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#### NOTES:

The default resource manager behavior is equivalent to that of the /dev/null system device. We'll first handle that, then extend it to actually move some data on read and write.

## The example Resource Manager - Setting things up



## The example resource manager:

- create & initialize structures:
  - · a dispatch structure
  - · list of connect message handlers
  - list of I/O message handlers
  - · device attributes
  - · resource-manager attributes
  - · dispatch context
- attach a pathname, passing much of the above
- from the main loop:
  - · block, waiting for messages
  - call a handler function; the handler function handles requests and performs callouts to your specified routines.

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## Setting things up - dispatch\_create()



# First, create a dispatch structure:

```
dispatch_t *dpp;
dpp = dispatch_create ();
```



- this is the glue the resource manager framework uses to hold everything together
- the contents are hidden (it is an opaque type)

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#### Setting things up - Connect and I/O functions



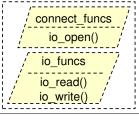
## Next, we set up two tables of functions:

- connect functions
  - these are called as a result of POSIX calls that take a filename

e.g.: open (filename, ...), unlink (filename), ...

- I/O functions
  - these are called as a result of POSIX calls that take a file descriptor

e.g.: read (fd, ...), write (fd, ...), ...



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#### NOTES:

Our example won't actually define an *open()* handler, because the default handler works in most basic cases. It is generally needed for file system resource managers.

#### Setting things up - Connect and I/O functions - Example



# Example of declaring and initializing the connect- and the I/O-functions structures:

iofunc\_func\_init() places default values into the passed connect- and I/Ofunctions structures, based on the number of values that you have specified via
the first and third integer arguments. It is recommended that you use the
\_RESMGR\_CONNECT\_NFUNCS and \_RESMGR\_IO\_NFUNCS constants for those
two arguments.

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#### NOTES:

Note that by specifying the number of functions to be the size of the entire structure as it existed at compile time (\_RESMGR\_CONNECT\_NFUNCS and \_RESMGR\_IO\_NFUNCS), we are in effect building in a "version number". In the future, if the shared object containing the resource manager framework should change, the shared object could examine the number passed and decide what sort of default behavior was appropriate for any new entries added later.

#### Setting things up - iofunc\_attr\_t



# Next, fill the device-attributes structure, for passing to resmgr\_attach():

```
iofunc_attr_t ioattr;
```

device structure iofunc\_attr\_t

- this is your device-specific data structure
- used by the *iofunc\_\*()* helper functions
- it is possible to extend this structure so that it can contain your own data too

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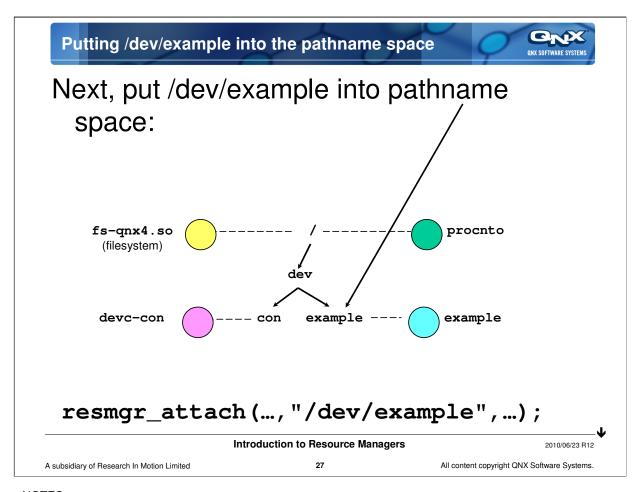
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#### NOTES:

S\_IFCHR is defined in <sys/stat.h> and says this device is a character special
device.



#### NOTES:

You must be root (userid 0) to do this.

#### Setting things up - resmgr\_attach() details



## The parameters are:

Tou must be root (userid 0) for this function to work.

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#### NOTES:

You likely would not use any of the other types for the **file\_type** member. For example, **\_FTYPE\_MQUEUE** is used by the POSIX Message Queue process.

#### resmgr\_attach() - flags



# The resmgr\_attach(..., <u>flags</u>, ...):

### \_resmgr\_flag\_before and

#### RESMGR FLAG AFTER

this resource manager will handle the pathname BEFORE or AFTER all others that have attached the same pathname

#### \_RESMGR\_FLAG\_DIR

allow pathnames that extend past the registered pathname to be handled by this resource manager used by filesystem resource managers (e.g.: /cdrom/...)

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#### NOTES:

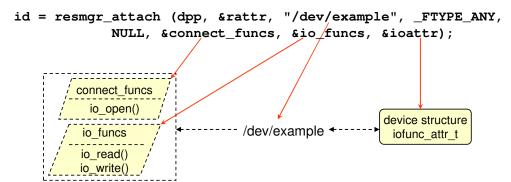
If multiple registrations with BEFORE or AFTER set, then all BEFORE will be first in FIFO order, then non-flagged in LIFO order, then AFTER in LIFO order. (First AFTER stays as last, first BEFORE stays at first.)





# When you call resmgr\_attach(), you are:

- creating your device
- associating data and handlers with it



### The library does not make copies of these structures

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#### resmgr\_attach()



# resmgr\_attach() puts the name in the pathname space:

- your resource manager becomes visible to clients
  - clients will expect you to be ready to handle messages
- before doing so, you should have completed most of your initialization:
  - · hardware detection and initialization
  - · buffer allocation and configuration
- if something fails, don't attach name

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### Setting things up - dispatch\_context\_alloc()



## Lastly, allocate a dispatch context structure:

```
dispatch_context_t *ctp;
ctp = dispatch_context_alloc (dpp);
```

dispatch context ctp

- this is the operating parameters of the message receive loop
- it is passed to the blocking function and the handler function
- it contains things like the rcvid, pointer to
   the receive buffer, and message info structure
- it will be passed as the ctp parameter to your connect and I/O functions

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#### Setting things up - What we have so far



# Putting together what we have so far:

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#### Setting things up - The dispatch loop



# So now that everything's set, the loop:

```
while (1) {
    ctp = dispatch_block (ctp);
    dispatch_handler (ctp);
}
```

- dispatch\_block() blocks waiting for messages,
- dispatch\_handler() handles them, including calling any callout functions which you've provided (connect function, I/O functions)

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#### NOTES:

#### We could have done this instead:

```
resmgr_context_t *ctp;
...
ctp = resmgr_context_alloc (dpp);
while (1) {
    ctp = resmgr_block (ctp);
    resmgr_handler (ctp);
}
```

- -but  $resmgr\_block()$  and  $resmgr\_handler()$  do not support pulse handlers, message handlers and select handlers.
- -Basically, the *dispatch\_\*()* functions act as a central point for handling multiple types of things. The *resmgr\_\*()* functions are a little quicker, but are for handling only \_Io\_\* messages. *dispatch\_handler()* ultimately calls *resmgr\_handler()*.

#### **EXERCISE**



## Exercise:

- in your resmgr project, look at example.c
- it is missing much of the initialization, finish the initialization
- run it as:
  - example -v
- you will need a command line on your target to test it, try:

```
echo Hello >/dev/example
ls /dev
ls -l /dev/example
cat /dev/example
```

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## **Introduction to Resource Managers**



# Topics:

## **Overview**

## A Simple Resource Manager

- Initialization
- – Handling read() and write()

## Conclusion

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### The example Resource Manager



Let's see what happens when a client uses the new /dev/example device (by, for example, doing "cat /dev/example"):

Internally, "cat" basically does:

```
fd = open("/dev/example",O_RDONLY);
while (read (fd, buf, BUFSIZ) > 0)
    /* write buf to stdout */
close (fd);
```

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### The example Resource Manager



### Which results in:

- Communications with the Process Manager:
  - an inquiry message to the process manager:
    - "who is responsible for /dev/example?"
    - returns a reply, "(nd, pid, chid)" (our resource manager, example), "is responsible"
- Communications with example:
  - · an open message
    - "open this device for read"
    - returns a reply, "yes, open succeeded, proceed"
    - the open() library call returns a file descriptor, fd
  - a read message
    - "get me some data"
    - returns a reply, "here are 0 bytes" (I.e. EOF)
  - · a close message

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#### NOTES:

On the client side, all of the messaging interaction that is taking place above is done inside the C library by the library calls *open()*, *read()*, and *close()*.

### The example Resource Manager's io



# Let's look at example's I/O functions:

### They both share the ctp and ocb...

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#### I/O Functions Arguments -- ctp ctp pointer to a resource-manager context structure information about the received message contains at least: typedef struct \_resmgr\_context { dispatch context int rcvid; ctp struct \_msq\_info info; resmgr\_iomsgs\_t \*msg; unsigned msg\_max\_size; int status; int offset; IOV iov [1]; } resmgr\_context\_t; **Introduction to Resource Managers** 2010/06/23 R12

#### NOTES:

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The rcvid is the return value from the *MsgReceive()*, and will be used for replying to the client.

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The info structure is the message information structure from the *MsgReceive()* call.

The \*msg field is the receive buffer, and is declared as a union of ALL possible message types.

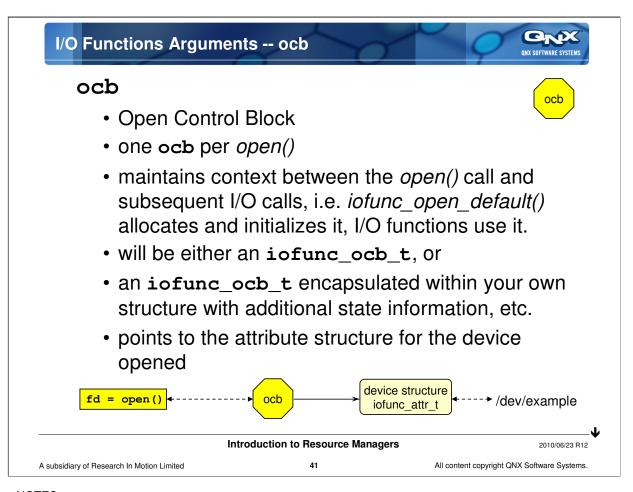
msg\_max\_size is the size of the receive buffer pointed to by msg.

The **status** field is used for the reply to the client, holding the reply status, often used for the number of bytes handled.

**offset** is the size of extra headers skipped in the receive buffer before this handler function was called.

size is the size of the current message being processed, which may be smaller than the amount received if this is a component of a multi-part message.

The iov array is an array size (default 1) as specified by the rattr passed to resmgr attach() that can be used for building multi-part replies.



#### NOTES:

Open Control Block is a name that dates back to some of the internal data structures used in UNIX for filesystems -- basically, you can think of it as a context block.





# The message you'll receive is:

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#### NOTES:

The one-element union for the io\_read\_t is declared that way to parallel other message structures that will have both i (incoming) and o (outgoing) message structure in the union.

The message will be generated by the read() call which looks like:

```
bytes_read = read( fd, buf, nbytes )
{
   struct _io_read hdr;
   hdr.type = _IO_READ;
   hdr.nbytes = nbytes;
   ...
   return( MsgSend( fd, &hdr, sizeof(hdr), buf, nbytes ) );
}
```

### READ



# For the reply:

- if successful:
  - the reply message would be your data (i.e. there is no header to worry about)
  - the return value from the *read()*'s *MsgSend()* would be the number of bytes successfully read. To set this, do:

```
_IO_SET_READ_NBYTES (ctp, nbytes_read);
SETIOV (ctp->iov, data, nbytes_read);
return (_RESMGR_NPARTS(1));
```

When you return to the resource manager library, it will pass **nbytes\_read** as the status parameter to *MsgReplyv()*. The *read()* will return this value.

- if failed, do:

```
return (errno_value);
```

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### The xtype (extended type) member



# The xtype (extended-type) member:

- will most often be:
  - \_IO\_XTYPE\_NONE
- most resource managers check for\_IO\_XTYPE\_NONE. If xtype is not this, then they return ENOSYS

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#### NOTES:

For some of the other possible **xtype** values see the "Writing a Resource Manager" section in the <u>Programmer's Guide</u>.

#### READ



# example's read function:

```
int
io_read(resmgr_context_t *ctp, io_read_t *msg, RESMGR_OCB_T *ocb)
{
  int status;

if ((status = iofunc_read_verify(ctp, msg, ocb, NULL)) != EOK)
  return (status);

if ((msg->i.xtype & _IO_XTYPE_MASK) != _IO_XTYPE_NONE)
  return (ENOSYS);

_IO_SET_READ_NEYTES (ctp, 0); /* 0 bytes successfully read */
  if (msg->i.nbytes > 0) /* mark access time for update */
    ocb->attr->flags |= IOFUNC_ATTR_ATIME;

return (_RESMGR_NPARTS (0));
}

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```

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#### NOTES:

The *iofunc\_read\_verify()* will do access-permission checks for you as well as other things.

According to POSIX, when a read returns zero bytes, this means end-of-file.

POSIX says that you must mark the access time for update when a read is done where the number of bytes requested is greater than 0 and the read is successful. The actual time doesn't have to be updated until a stat is done or the file is closed. So, here, set a bit in the attribute structure that will be looked at in the default stat and close handlers. This avoids an extra kernel call to get the time on each read.

If you want the access time to be the time of the read, set the flag as above and then call <code>iofunc\_time\_update()</code>.

### **EXERCISE**



- in your resmgr project, go back toexample.c (we've already seen most of it)
- modify the io\_read handler to return some data
  - make up some data
- run it as:
- test it from a command line on your target:
  cat /dev/example

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#### NOTES:

It is normal and expected behaviour that you will get an unending stream of data from "cat /dev/example". The ocb->offset entry is commonly used to track current position within a file, and to determine when to return end of file.

WRITE



# The message you'll receive is:

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#### NOTES:

The message will be generated by the *write()* call, which looks like:

```
bytes_written = write( fd, buf, nbytes )
{
   struct _io_write hdr;
   iov_t iov[2];
   hdr.type = _IO_WRITE;
   hdr.nbytes = nbytes;
   ...
   SETIOV(&iov[0], &hdr, sizeof(hdr));
   SETIOV(&iov[1], buf, nbytes );
   return( MsgSendv( fd, iov, 2, NULL, 0 ) );
}
```

The case where the data does not follow the <code>io\_write\_t</code> in the message buffer is when the client calls one of the <code>pread\*()</code> or <code>pwrite\*()</code> functions. See the resource manager documentation for how to handle this case. Look for information on handling the case where the <code>xtype</code> member in the mesage header is <code>IO XTYPE OFFSET</code>.

#### WRITE



# For the reply:

- if successful:
  - · there is no data to reply with
  - the return value from the *write()*'s *MsgSendv()* would be the number of bytes successfully written. To set this do:

```
_IO_SET_WRITE_NBYTES (ctp, nbytes_written);
return (_RESMGR_NPARTS(0));
```

When you return to the resource manager library, it will pass **nbytes\_written** as the status parameter to *MsgReplyv()*. The *write()* will return this value.

- if failed, do:

return (errno\_value);

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#### WRITE



# example's write function:

```
int io_write (resmgr_context_t *ctp, io_write_t *msg,
              RESMGR OCB T *ocb)
  int status;
  if ((status = iofunc_write_verify(ctp, msg, ocb, NULL)) != EOK)
    return (status);
  if ((msg->i.xtype & _IO_XTYPE_MASK) != _IO_XTYPE_NONE)
    return (ENOSYS);
  // msg -> i.nbytes is the number of byte to be written,
  // we are telling it that we wrote everything (msg -> i.nbytes)
  _IO_SET_WRITE_NBYTES (ctp, msg -> i.nbytes);
  if (msg->i.nbytes > 0) /* mark times for update */
    ocb->attr->flags |= IOFUNC_ATTR_MTIME | IOFUNC_ATTR_CTIME;
  return (_RESMGR_NPARTS (0));
}
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```

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#### NOTES:

The *iofunc\_write\_verify()* will do access permission checks for you as well as other things.

As with read, POSIX says that you must mark the access time for update when a write is done where the number of bytes requested is greater than 0 and the write is successful. The actual time doesn't have to be updated until a stat is done or the file is closed. So, here set a bit in the attribute structure that will be looked at in the default stat and close handlers. This avoids an extra kernel call to get the time on each write.

If you want the times to be the time of the write, set the flags as above and then call <code>iofunc\_time\_update()</code>.

### **WRITE** - Getting the data



# example doesn't do anything with the data to be written, but what if you want to?

- The data usually follows the io\_write\_t in the message buffer.
- But it may not all have been received, what happens in the following case?

```
MsgSend(coid, smsg, sbytes, ...);
smsg = ______
sbytes = 3000

MsgReceive(chid, rmsg, rbytes, ...);
rmsg = _____
rbytes = 1000
```

As you know, the kernel copies the lesser of the two sizes, so in this case only 1000 bytes will have been received. How do you handle this?

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### **WRITE** - Getting the Data



# In your io\_write callback:

int io\_write (resmgr\_context\_t \*ctp, io\_write\_t \*msg, ...)

### You have several pieces of information:

- msg->i.nbytes
  - is the number of bytes passed to the client's write() call: write(fd, buf, nbytes)
- ctp->info.msglen
  - is the number of bytes that have actually been copied into the receive buffer
  - includes the io\_write\_t header and any headers before it
- ctp->offset
  - is the size of any headers before the io\_write\_t
  - msg = (char \*)(ctp->msg) + ctp->offset
- ctp->msq
  - · is a pointer to the actual receive buffer
- ctp->msg\_max\_size
  - is the size of the receive buffer, ctp->msg

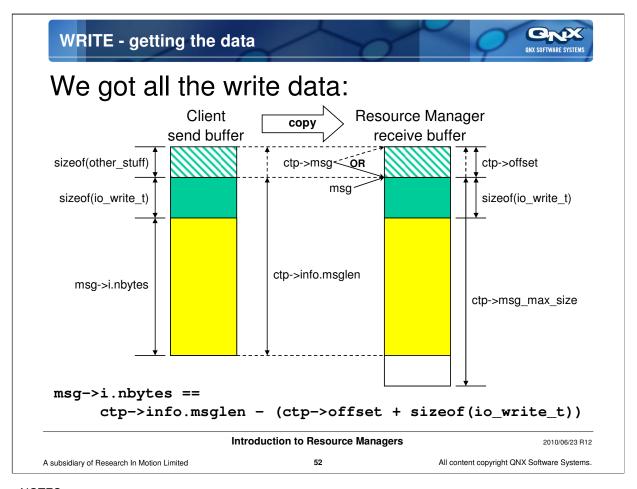
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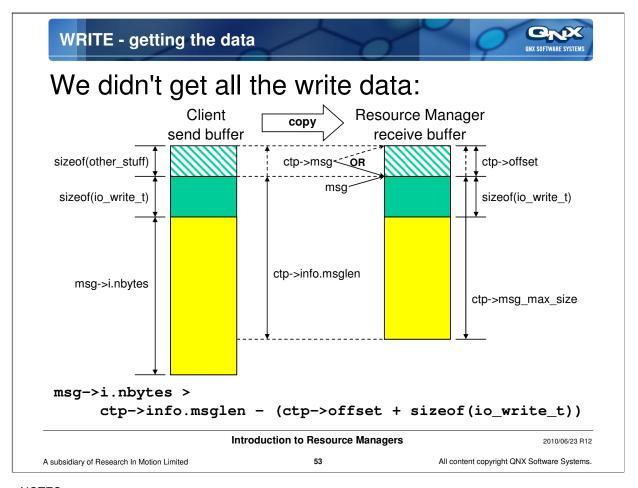
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### **WRITE - Getting the Data**



# How do you use this?

- if msg->i.nbytes is equal to
  ctp->info.msglen (ctp->offset + sizeof(io\_write\_t))
  - all the write data has already been received, and we can use it directly from the receive buffer
- otherwise, we don't have the whole message
  - need to find somewhere to put the data
  - need to go get the rest of the data using resmgr\_msgread()

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#### NOTES:

resmgr\_msgread() is a cover function for MsgRead() that automatically adds in the ctp->offset for you.

### **WRITE** - Getting the data



# A simple method is to reread all of it from the sender's buffer:

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### **WRITE - Getting the Data**



# But there are other choices, including:

- find available cache buffers and use resmgr\_msgreadv() to fill them
- use a small buffer and multiple resmgr\_msgread() calls to work through the client's message, a piece at a time
- copy the already received data from the receive buffer, and then use resmgr\_msgread() for the rest
- ensure in advance that the receive buffer will be large enough for your largest write

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#### NOTES:

You can modify the size of the receive buffer by by filling in the msg\_max\_size member of the resmgr\_attr\_t structure that you'd passed to resmgr\_attach(). You'd set it to the largest message that you'll be receiving, including the headers.

### **EXERCISE**



### **Exercise:**

- we're going to further modify example.c in your resmgr project
- modify the io\_write handler to:
  - print out the number of bytes written
  - print out all the data written
  - · handle the small messages without reading more data
- run it as:

example -v

– test it from a command line on your target:

echo Hello >/dev/example
cp /etc/services /dev/example
cp /etc/termcap /dev/example

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#### NOTES:

On some targets, /etc/services and /etc/termcap may not exist, so copy another large text file, or transfer your source file, example.c, to the target and then copy it to /dev/example.

### **Introduction to Resource Managers**



# Topics:

### **Overview**

### A Simple Resource Manager

- Initialization
- Handling read() and write()
- --- Conclusion

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### Conclusion



- that a resource manager is a device driver framework
- how to initialize and register a resource manager
- how to handle read() and write() client requests

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### References



Programmer's Guide (QSS)

- contains a chapter titled "Writing a Resource Manager" Getting Started with QNX Neutrino
  - by Rob Krten, but included with QNX documentationhas good information on writing Resource Managers

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