Windows System Programming

Course Summary Table

Duration:	5 Days
Target Audience:	Windows developers and researchers
Objectives:	• Understand the why of COM • Build COM servers and clients • Use the Active Template Library (ATL) effectively • Use COM features such as in process and out of process servers, automation, events and callbacks • Understand and use COM apartments and threading models
Pre Requisites:	• Real-world experience programming in C • C++ experience is beneficial, but not mandatory • Basic understanding of Windows OS concepts such as processes, threads, virtual memory and DLLs

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Abstract

The Windows system-level APIs provide a rich infrastructure for building Windows applications, whether client, server, and anything in between. This course guides the learner through the intricacies of the Windows API, while getting a deeper understanding of Windows mechanisms.

The course deals with the most important parts of the Windows OS, such as processes, threads, memory management, I/O, services, security and more. Lab exercises help put the theoretical material into practical use.

Syllabus

- Module 1: Foundations
  - Windows architecture overview
  - Windows APIs
  - Developing for Windows with Visual Studio
  - Common Windows types and conventions
  - Working with Strings
  - API Errors
  - 32-bit vs. 64-bit Development
  - The Windows version
  - Summary

- Module 2: Objects and Handles

    - Kernel Objects
    - Handles
    - Working with Handles
    - Sharing Objects
    - Private object namespaces
    - User and GDI objects
    - Summary

- Module 3: Processes
    - Process creation
    - The main function(s)
    - Creating processes
    - Process termination
    - Enumerating processes
    - Summary

- Module 4: Jobs
    - Introduction to jobs
    - Creating jobs
    - Setting and getting limits
    - Nested jobs
    - Job notifications

- Module 5: Threads
    - Introduction to threads
    - Creating threads
    - A thread’s stack
    - Terminating threads
    - Thread priorities
    - Basic thread scheduling
    - A thread’s name
    - Affinity

- Module 6: Thread Synchronization
    - Synchronization basics
    - Atomic operations
    - Critical sections
    - Reader-writer locks
    - Synchronization with kernel objects
    - Mutexes, semaphores and events

- Module 7: File and Device I/O
    - The I/O system
    - The CreateFile function
    - Synchronous I/O
    - Asynchronous I/O

    - Handling async I/O completion
    - I/O completion ports
    - I/O cancellation

- Module 8: Memory Management
    - Process address space
    - System memory usage
    - Process memory counters
    - Reserving and committing memory
    - The heap manager
    - Memory mapped files

- Module 9: Dynamic Link Libraries
    - Why DLLs?
    - Building DLLs
    - Implicit and explicit linking
    - The DllMain function
    - Delay Load dlls

- Module 10: Security
    - Windows security components
    - SIDs
    - Access tokens
    - Privileges
    - Security descriptors
    - User access control
    - Running elevated
    - Impersonation

- Module 11: Advanced Techniques (as time permits)
    - Remote threads
    - DLL injection
    - API hooking
    - Windows hooks
    - Thread pools
    - Services