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CS6233 Introduction to Operating Systems HW1

1. What are kernel APIs? What is the difference between kernel APIs and system calls?

Kernel APIs:
They are the interfaces for user-space applications. They can invoke user-space application and control the output.

System calls:
They allow user-space programs to invoke methods defined in the kernel.

2. What are roles of files in /boot/ (vmlinuz-*, initrd.img-*, grub, config*)?

vmlinuz-*:
It is a compressed file of Linux kernel. The first thing computer will do is loads this file into memory.

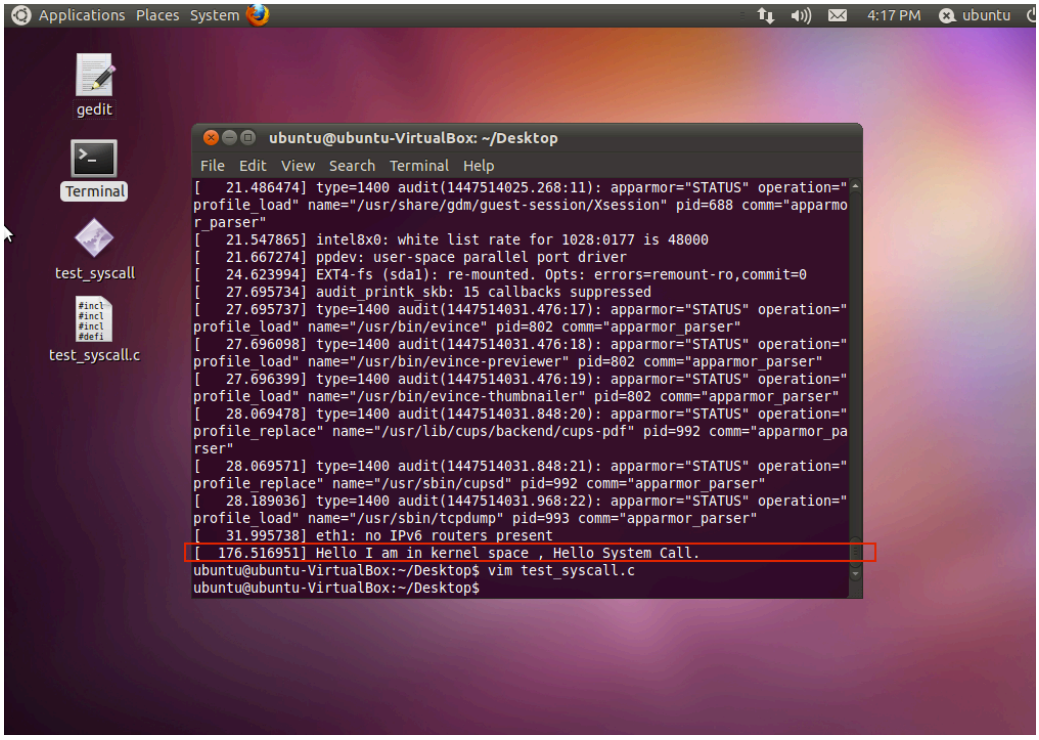
initrd.img-*:
It is a temporary root file system. It is mounted during system boot to support the two-state boot process. It also contains various executables and drivers which permit the root file system to be mounted successfully.

grub:
It is a boot loader. It is used to load the kernel when starting the system.

config*:
It is the configuration file of the kernel. In this file, we can choose which modules or drivers should be added into kernel. Therefore, we can decide the size and functionality of the linux system.

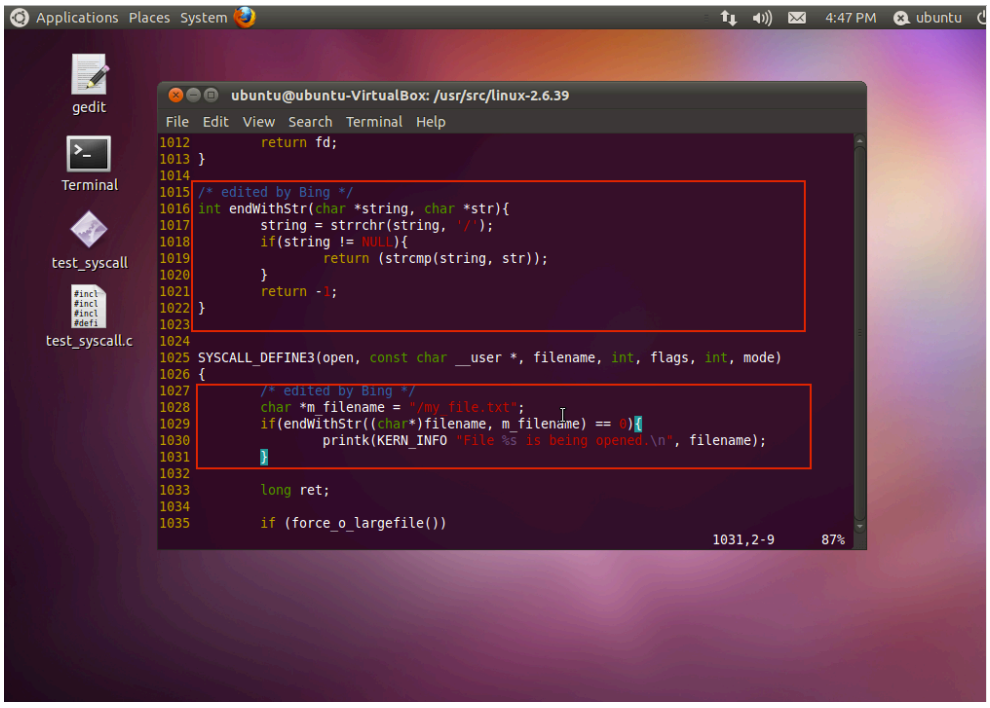
Include the screenshots from tasks 1, 2, and 3 below:

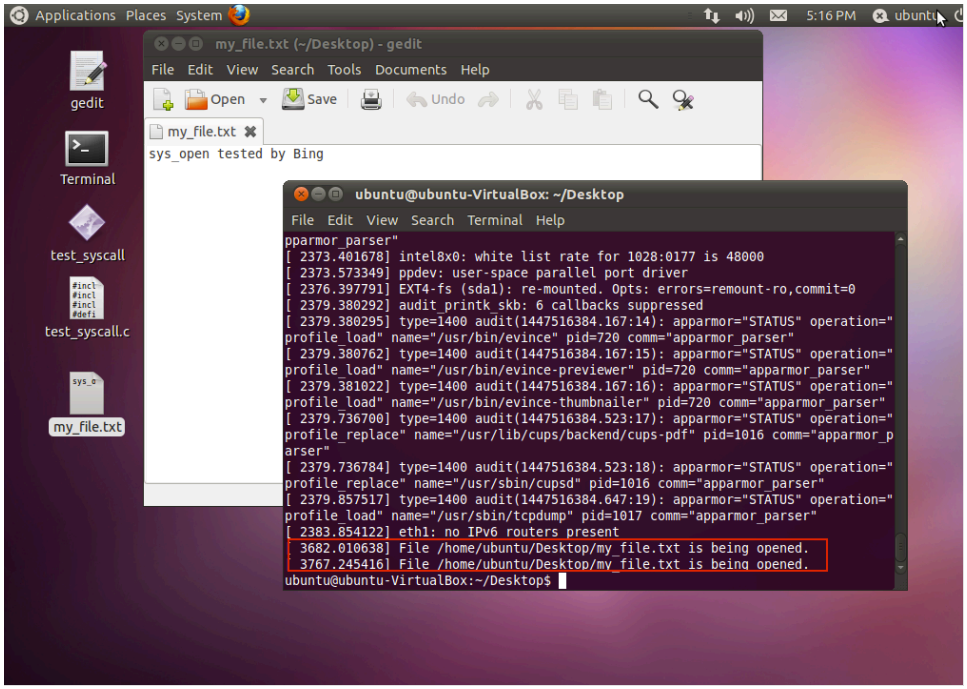
Task 1:



Task 2:

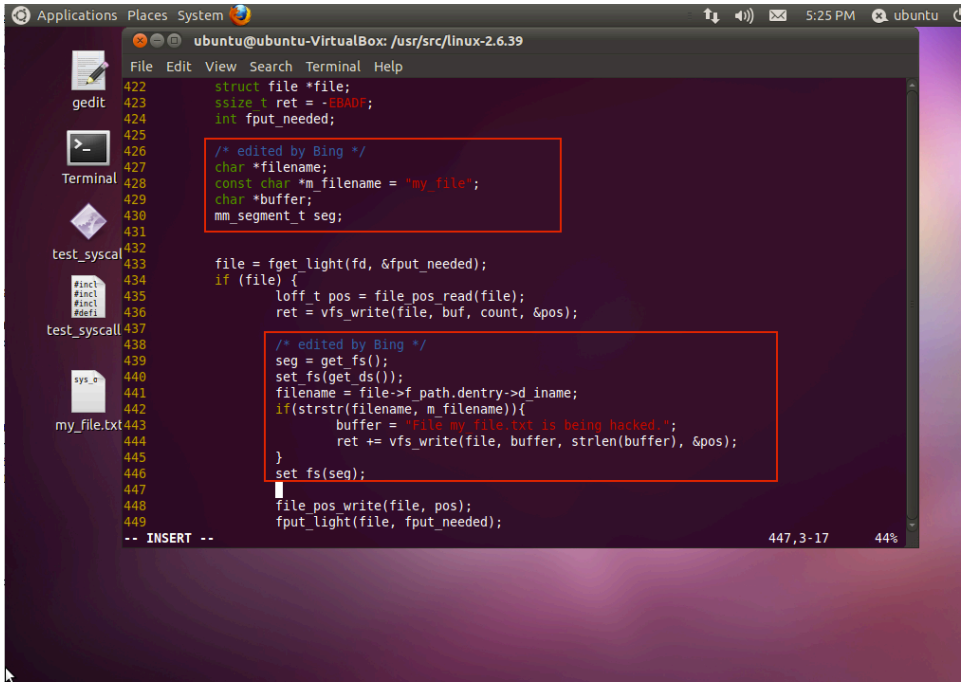
I edit the file: /usr/src/linux2.6.39/fs/open.c





Task 3:

I edit the file: /usr/src/linux2.6.39/fs/read_write.c



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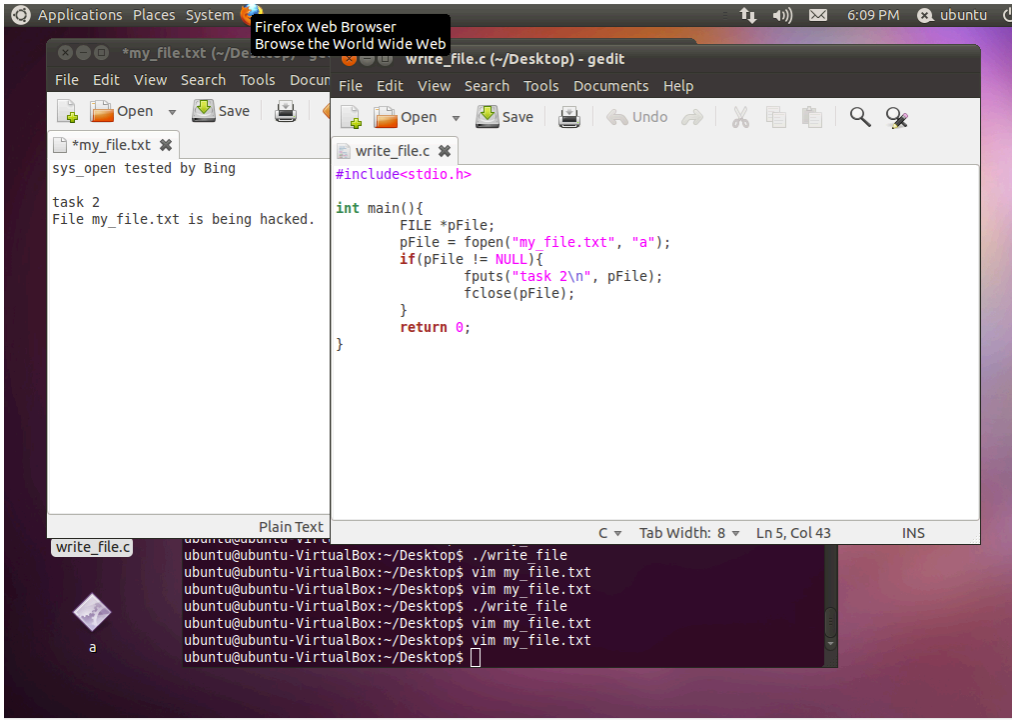

All the files I modify:
linux-2.6.39 / kernel / my_system_call.c
linux-2.6.39 / arch / x86 / kernel / syscall_table_32.S
linux-2.6.39 / arch / x86 / include / asm / unistd_32.h
linux-2.6.39 / arch / x86 / include / asm / unistd_64.h
linux-2.6.39 / include / linux / syscalls.h
linux-2.6.39 / kernel / Makefile
linux-2.6.39 / fs / open.c
linux-2.6.39 / fs / read_write.c

Test code:
test_syscall.c
write_file.c

Test file:
my_file.txt