

Fork & Multiprocessing Synchronization

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Getting Started

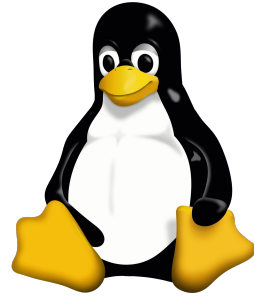
https://github.com/caesarsalad/ceng2034_os_labs

OS for DevOps or Backend Developers

- Linux (Ubuntu 18.04)
- Python3
- Git
- Github Account



Fork



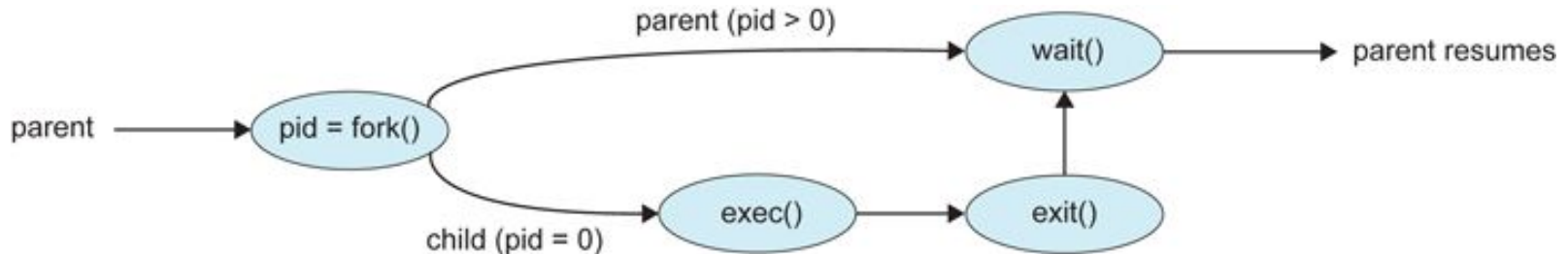
- `os.fork()` in Python provides the implementation of the system call `fork()`.
- `os.fork()` when called from a program it creates a new process.
- Thus executing `os.fork()` creates two processes: A parent process and a child process.
- The newly created child process is the **exact replica of the parent process**.
- If successful, the return value of the `os.fork()` call in the parent program will be the process id of the child process. In case of any failure the return value will be -1. For the successful case in the child process the **return value will be zero**.

Wait

The `wait()` method of `os` module in Python enables a parent process to synchronize with the child process. i.e, To wait till the child process exits and then proceed.

Return Value:

A Python tuple consisting of the existing child process id and a sixteen-bit integer to denote exit status.



Resources

- “Premature optimization is the root of all evil (or at least most of it) in programming.” D. Knuth
- <https://pythontic.com/modules/os/fork>
- <https://code-maven.com/parallel-processing-using-fork-in-python>
- <https://docs.python.org/3/library/os.html#process-management>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fork_bomb
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