Operating Systems

Isfahan University of Technology
Electrical and Computer Engineering Department
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Session 6: Operation on Processes (API)

Process Creation

- **Parent** process create **children** processes, which, in turn create other processes, forming a **tree** of processes
- Generally, process identified and managed via a **process identifier** (**pid**)
- Resource sharing options
  - Parent and children share all resources
  - Children share subset of parent's resources
  - Parent and child share no resources
- Execution options
  - Parent and children execute concurrently
  - Parent waits until children terminate

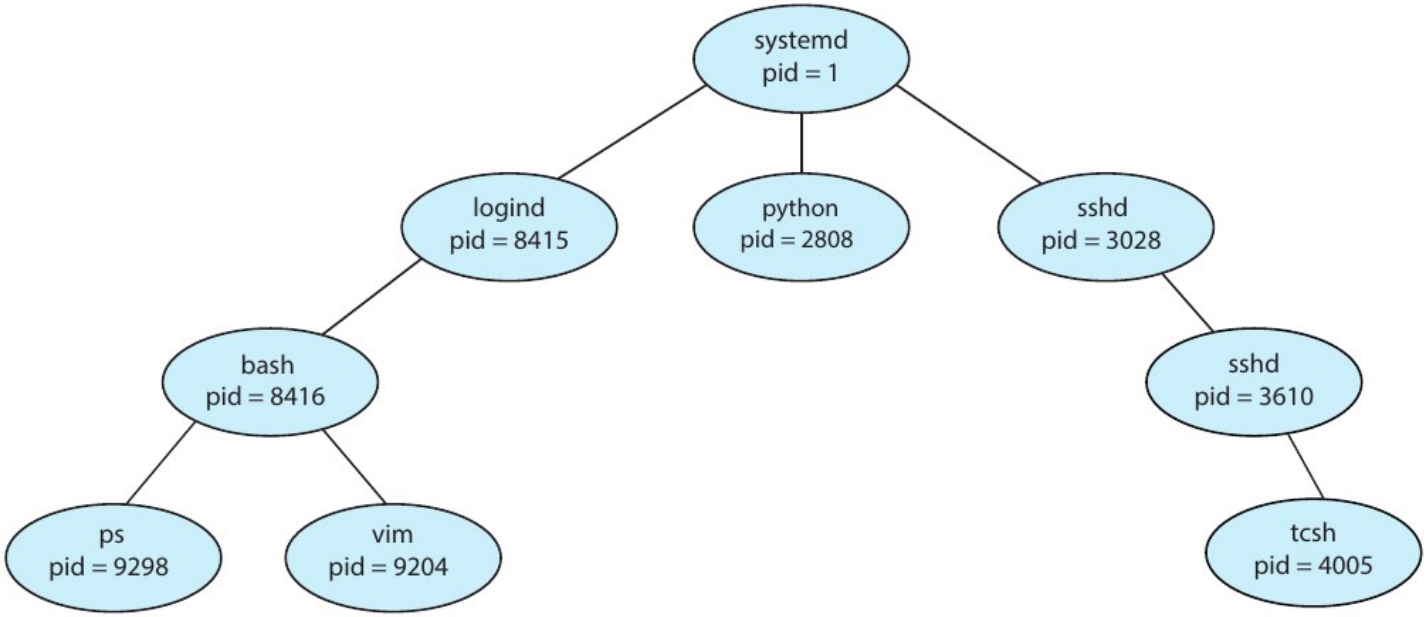
ps -el

pstree

Prevent overloading the system by too many child processes

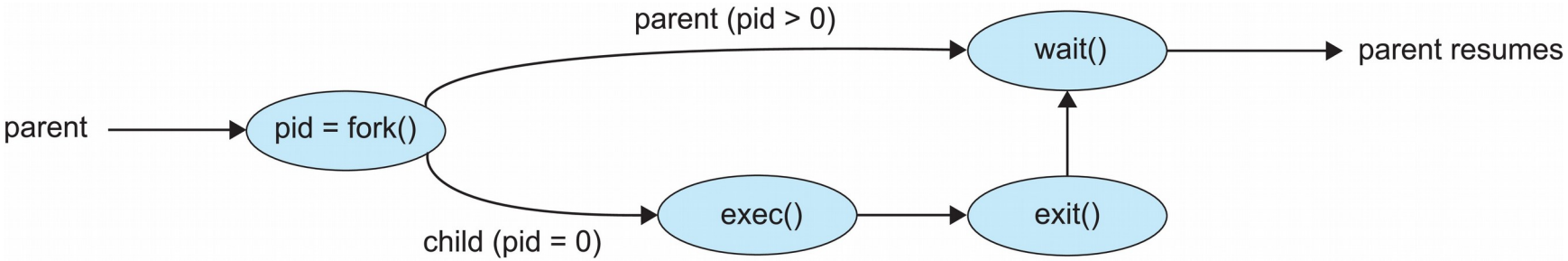
A Tree of Processes in Linux

pstree



Process Creation (Cont.)

- Address space
  - Child duplicate of parent
  - Child has a program loaded into it
- UNIX examples
  - `fork()` system call creates new process
  - `exec()` system call used after a `fork()` to replace the process' memory space with a new program
  - Parent process calls `wait()` waiting for the child to terminate



C Program Forking Separate Process

```
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <unistd.h>

int main()
{
pid_t pid;

    /* fork a child process */
    pid = fork();

    if (pid < 0) { /* error occurred */
       fprintf(stderr, "Fork Failed");
       return 1;
    }
    else if (pid == 0) { /* child process */
       execlp("/bin/ls","ls",NULL);
    }
    else { /* parent process */
       /* parent will wait for the child to complete */
       wait(NULL);
       printf("Child Complete");
    }

    return 0;
}
```

Practice

What is the output of following code? How many processes are created?

```
Main(){
   pid_t pid1, pid2, pid3;
   pid1 = fork();
   wait()
   pid2 = fork();
   if (pid1 == 0 or pid2==0){
       printf('new child process');
    }
    pid3 = fork();
    printf("End of the process");
}
```

Process Termination

- Process executes last statement and then asks the operating system to delete it using the **`exit()`** system call.
  - Returns status data from child to parent (via **`wait()`**)
  - Process' resources are deallocated by operating system
- Parent may terminate the execution of children processes using the **kill `()`** system call. Some reasons for doing so:
  - Child has exceeded allocated resources
  - Task assigned to child is no longer required
  - The parent is exiting and the operating systems does not allow a child to continue if its parent terminates

Process Termination

- Some operating systems do not allow child to exists if its parent has terminated. If a process terminates, then all its children must also be terminated.
  - **cascading termination.** All children, grandchildren, etc. are terminated.
  - The termination is initiated by the operating system.
- The parent process may wait for termination of a child process by using the `wait()` system call. The call returns status information and the pid of the terminated process

```
pid = wait(&status);
```

- A process that has terminated, but whose parent has not yet called wait() , is known as a zombie process
- if a parent did not invoke wait() and instead terminated, thereby leaving its child processes as orphans

Process Termination

- Some operating systems do not allow child to exists if its parent has terminated. If a process terminates, then all its children must also be terminated.
  - **cascading termination.** All children, grandchildren, etc. are terminated.
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All processes transition to zombie state when they terminate, but generally they exist as zombies only briefly.
Once the parent calls wait(), the process identifier of the zombie process and its entry in the process table are released.

```
pid = wait(&status);
```

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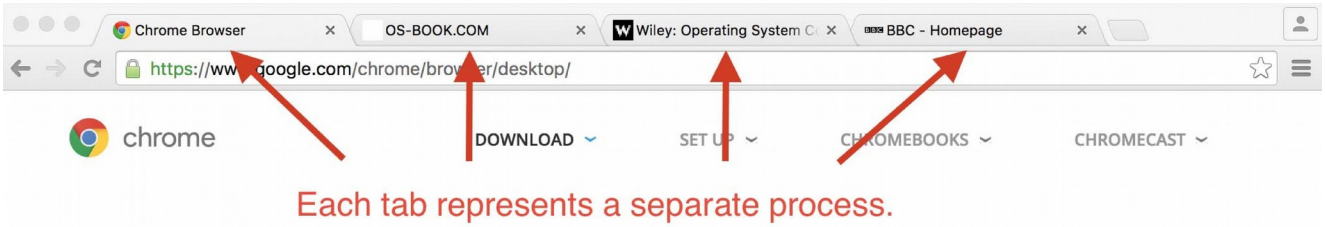
Multiprocess Architecture – Chrome Browser

- Many web browsers ran as single process (some still do)
  - If one web site causes trouble, entire browser can hang or crash
- Google Chrome Browser is multiprocess with 3 different types of processes:
  - **Browser** process manages user interface, disk and network I/O
  - **Renderer** process renders web pages, deals with HTML, Javascript. A new renderer created for each website opened
    - Runs in **sandbox** restricting disk and network I/O, minimizing effect of security exploits
  - **Plug-in** process for each type of plug-in

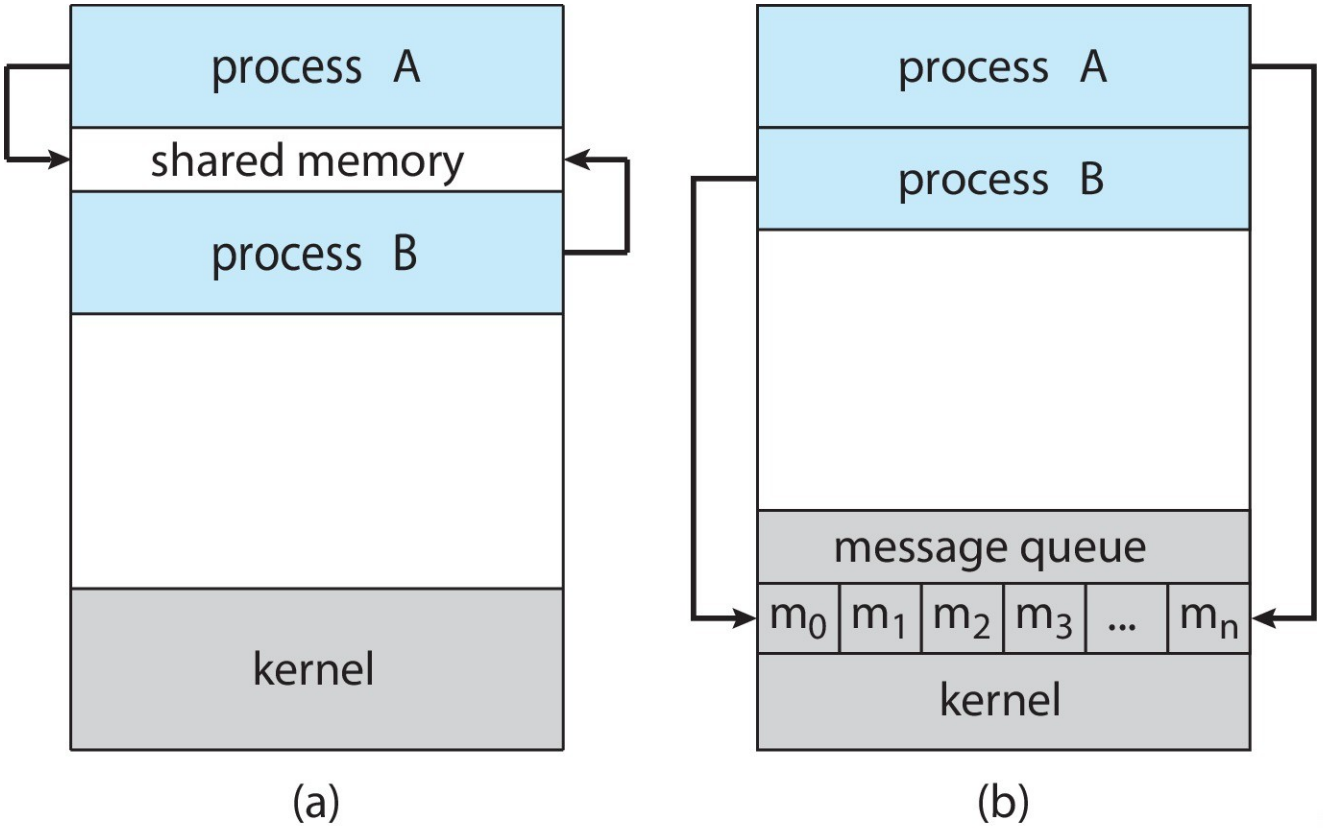


Interprocess Communication

- Processes within a system may be ***independent*** or ***cooperating***
- Cooperating process can affect or be affected by other processes, including sharing data
- Reasons for cooperating processes:
  - Information sharing
  - Computation speedup
  - Modularity
  - Convenience
- Cooperating processes need **interprocess communication** (**IPC**)
- Two models of IPC
  - **Shared memory**
  - **Message passing (for small amounts of data)**

Communications Models

(a) Shared memory. (b) Message passing.



Producer-Consumer Problem

- Paradigm for cooperating processes:
  - *producer* process produces information that is consumed by a *consumer* process
- Two variations:
  - **unbounded-buffer** places no practical limit on the size of the buffer:
    - Producer never waits
    - Consumer waits if there is no buffer to consume
  - **bounded-buffer** assumes that there is a fixed buffer size
    - Producer must wait if all buffers are full
    - Consumer waits if there is no buffer to consume

Interprocess Communication – Shared Memory

- An area of memory shared among the processes that wish to communicate
- The communication is under the control of the users processes not the operating system.
- **Benefits:**
  - Faster than message passing
- **Disadvantages:**
  - Major issues is to provide mechanism that will allow the user processes to synchronize their actions when they access shared memory.

Bounded-Buffer – Shared-Memory Solution

- Shared data

```
#define BUFFER_SIZE 10
typedef struct {
  . . .
} item;

item buffer[BUFFER_SIZE];
int in = 0;
int out = 0;
```

- Solution is correct, but can only use `BUFFER_SIZE-1` elements

Producer Process – Shared Memory

```
item next_produced;

while (true) {
   /* produce an item in next produced */
   while (((in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE) == out)
       ; /* do nothing */
   buffer[in] = next_produced;
   in = (in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
}
```

Consumer Process – Shared Memory

```
item next_consumed;

while (true) {
    while (in == out)
        ; /* do nothing */
    next_consumed = buffer[out];
    out = (out + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;

    /* consume the item in next consumed */
}
```

What about Filling all the Buffers?

- Suppose that we wanted to provide a solution to the consumer-producer problem that fills **all** the buffers.
- We can do so by having an integer **`counter`** that keeps track of the number of full buffers.
- Initially, **`counter`** is set to 0.
- The integer **`counter`** is incremented by the producer after it produces a new buffer.
- The integer **`counter`** is and is decremented by the consumer after it consumes a buffer.

Producer

```
while (true) {
    /* produce an item in next produced */

    while (counter == BUFFER_SIZE)
        ; /* do nothing */
    buffer[in] = next_produced;
    in = (in + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
    counter++;
}
```

Consumer

```
while (true) {
    while (counter == 0)
        ; /* do nothing */
    next_consumed = buffer[out];
    out = (out + 1) % BUFFER_SIZE;
        counter--;
    /* consume the item in next consumed */
}
```

Race Condition

- `counter++` could be implemented as

```
register1 = counter
register1 = register1 + 1
counter = register1
```

- `counter--` could be implemented as

```
register2 = counter
register2 = register2 - 1
counter = register2
```

- Consider this execution interleaving with "count = 5" initially:

S0: producer execute `register1 = counter` {register1 = 5}
S1: producer execute `register1 = register1 + 1` {register1 = 6}
S2: consumer execute `register2 = counter` {register2 = 5}
S3: consumer execute `register2 = register2 - 1` {register2 = 4}
S4: producer execute `counter = register1` {counter = 6 }
S5: consumer execute `counter = register2` {counter = 4}

Race Condition (Cont.)

- Question – why was there no race condition in the first solution (where at most N – 1) buffers can be filled?
- More in Chapter 6.