

1. a) Notes• **Privileged Instructions**

- Is the instruction that can run only in **kernel mode**
- Attempt at execution in **user mode** → treated as an illegal operation & will not run.

• **Trap**

- Is a special hardware instruction
- Is a type of synchronous interrupt ^[1]
- Is caused by an exceptional condition ^[1]
 1. Division by zero ^[1]
 2. Invalid memory access (segmentation fault) ^[1]
 3. Privileged instruction by **user mode** code ^[2]
- Usually results in a switch to **kernel mode** → Operating system performs action → Returns control to original process

• **Trap Instruction**

- Is executed when a user wants to invoke a service from the operating system (i.e. reading hard drive) in **user mode**

• **User Mode**

- Executing code has no ability to *directly* access hardware or reference memory ^[3]
- Crashes are always recoverable ^[3]
- Is where most of the code on our computer are executed ^[3]

• **Kernel Mode**

- Executing code has complete and unrestricted access to the underlying hardware ^[3]
- Is generally reserved for the lowest-level, most trusted functions of the operating system ^[3]
- Is fatal to crash; it will halt the entire PC (i.e the blue screen of death) ^[3]

References

- a) Wikipedia, Trap (computing), link
- b) University of Utah, CS5460: Operating Systems Lecture 3 - OS Organization, link
- c) Coding Horror, Understanding User and Kernel Mode, link