CSC 369 Midterm 5 Solution

1. No. if the access is read for both threads, then concurrency error will not occur.

2. b), c) and d) are true

Correct solution

c) and d) are true

Notes

Question What does it mean when mutex is held by this thread?

Question What I do know is that pthread_cond_wait puts thread to sleep. My question here is, how come the mutex is not held when thread is in a blocked state/sleep?

- 3. a) Only b) causes starvation.
 - b) Conditional variable is a queue that allows threads to be put themselves on to sleep (in blocked state) when thread it is not desired using pthread_cond_wait function.

Since there are no threads inside cv1, there is nothing to awake using pthread_cond_signal.

So, nothing will occur.

c) System call is a subset of interrupt caused by user application to switch from user mode to kernel mode to perform previleged operations for the application.

Interrupt is a signal sent by hardware (e.g keyboard, mouse, hard drive) or software.

It tells the cpu to stop its activities and execute appropriate part of the operating system.

Notes

• I need to review how interrupt works. I had to look up the information.

Question How does interrupt work?

- Interrupt
 - Is a signal
 - there are two types of interrupts:
 - * Hardware interrupt
 - · Is signal generated by hardware (e.g RAM is full, Hard drive is full)
 - · Is sent to operating system
 - * Software interrupt
 - · Is signal generated by software (e.g program crash, system call)

CSC 369 Midterm 5 Solution

- · Is sent to operating system
- · May call trap instruction (esp. system call)



References

- 1. venkatesan ramachandran, What is an Interrupt?, link
- d) No. This statment is false.

User level threads are generated in user-mode without keneral being aware about it.

Notes

Question What is the difference between user-level thread and kernel-level thread?

Question Why is thread that is generated at user level using procedure call faster than kernel level thread?

Question What is procedure call? How does it work?

• Procedure call

- works in user-mode only
- doesn't require context switching
- doesn't need help from OS/Kernel
- no context-switching \rightarrow faster

References

1. Tech Dose, System call vs Procedure call, link

CSC 369 Midterm 5 Solution

e) System calls do not generate processes. fork() does.

With this reason the program run_stuff generates only 1 additional process.

Notes

Question What is a process? And how does process work?

Question How come system call doesn't generate process? And how come fork() generates process?

• Process

- Is a running program
- Has 3 states

1. Running:

- * means a processs is running on a processor
- * means instructions are being executed

2. Ready:

- * means a process is ready to run
- * means OS has chosen not to run the program at the given moment

3. Blocked:

* means a process has performed some kind of operation that makes it not ready to run until some event takes place