CSC 369 Midterm 1 Solution

1. a) Trap instruction is run in user mode, and privileged operation is run in kernel mode

Notes

• Previliged Instructions

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

• Trap

- Is a special hardware instruction
- Is a software generated interrupt ^[4]
- 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. Previleged 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

- 1) Wikipedia, Trap (computing), link
- 2) University of Utah, CS5460: Operating Systems Lecture 3 OS Organization, link
- 3) Coding Horror, Understanding User and Kernel Mode, link
- 4) ETH Zurich, Programming in Systems, link

b) **Notes**

• Locks

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