

CMSC216: Finale

Chris Kauffman

*Last Updated:
Wed Dec 4 09:23:22 PM EST 2024*

Logistics

Goals

- ▶ Threads Wrap
- ▶ Final Exam Logistics
- ▶ Review

Assignments: P5

Lab12, HW12, P5 Due
Due Mon 09-Dec

Date	Event
Thu 05-Dec	Threads Wrap Practice Exam
Mon 09-Dec	Dis: Review Lab12 / HW12 Due P5 Due Course Evals Due
Thu 12-Dec 6:30-8:30pm	Final Exam Lec 1xx: IRB 0324 Lec 2xx: ESJ 0202

Announcements: Student Feedback Opportunities

Course Experiences Now Open

e.g. Rate your Professor

- ▶ <https://www.courseexp.umd.edu/>
- ▶ **If response rate reaches 80% for all sections...**
- ▶ **by Mon 09-Dec 11:59pm...**
- ▶ **I will reveal a Final Exam Question**
- ▶ No answers but public discussion welcome
- ▶ Feedback open through Tue 10-Dec

Canvas Exit Survey

- ▶ Now open on ELMS/Canvas
- ▶ <https://umd.instructure.com/courses/1368155/quizzes/1722546>
- ▶ Worth 1 Full Engagement Point for completion
- ▶ Due prior to Final Exam (Wed 11-Dec 11:59pm)

Final Exam Logistics

- ▶ Final Exam in person 6:30-8:30pm Thu 12-Dec
- ▶ **Location Based on Section**
 - Lec 1xx (09:30am): IRB 0324
 - Lec 2xx (11:00am): ESJ 0202
- ▶ 2 hours long, Open Resource
- ▶ 6 sides of paper (3 pages front/back)
- ▶ ~4 sides like 3rd Midterm Exam
 - System Calls, Processes, Low-level I/O, Memory System
 - Hardware and Cache Efficiency, Virtual Memory, Threads,
 - P4/P5 Material
- ▶ ~2 sides Comprehensive Review
 - Tie together concepts that pervaded the semester like memory layout, physical parts of the computing system,
- ▶ Question format like previous exams: coding, debugging, conceptual, practical applications

What have we done?

C Programming

Lowest of the “high-level” languages, gives fairly direct control over capabilities of the machine at the expense of coding difficulty and ease of mistakes

Assembly Programming

Tied directly to what a processor can do, studied x86-64 specifically, exposes processor internals like registers, instructions, operand sizes, etc.

Computing Hardware

Basics components like CPU, Registers, Cache Memory, DRAM, Disks, how they interact

Operating System Basics

Programs exist in an environment usually managed by an OS, provides abstractions like Processes, Files, Threads, along with the ability to manipulate and coordinate these through System Calls

We studied Computing Systems, as you might expect

Further Coursework / Activities

- ▶ **CMSC411 Computer Systems Architecture:** Develops hardware/software interface in more detail, study pipelines + superscalar features in more detail, examine multi-core systems
- ▶ **CMSC412 Operating Systems:** Study internal design issues associated with operating systems, handling hardware, tradeoffs on different approaches to management, theoretical algorithms around resource coordination.
- ▶ **CMSC414 Computer and Network Security:** Builds on the buffer overflow attacks we studied, discusses other attacks via networks, counter measures, design aspects of secure systems

Summer Practice

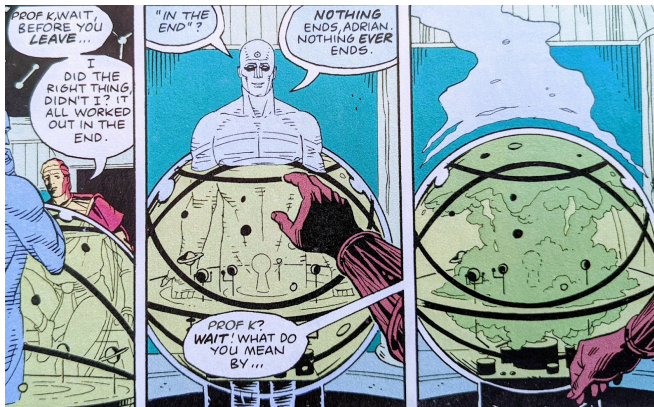
Students often ask what they could do during a break to keep up their computing skills. Here are a few ideas.

- ▶ READ: [The Art of Unix Programming](#) by Eric S. Raymond
Fantastic philosophical and pragmatic discussion of how to build systems that work especially in the Unix environment.
(free online)
- ▶ COMPLETE: If you didn't finish a project in this course or another, take some time to do so.
- ▶ EXTEND: If you use VS Code, [Write an Extension for it](#) that does something interesting. This will teach you MUCH about modern software development
- ▶ BUILD: Buy an Arduino Microcontroller (\$10) and get a “Blinky” routine to run; it's C code! [Adafruit](#) has tons of fun toys with accompanying tutorials.
- ▶ REST: Take some time away from the screen for fun. Recharging is as important for people as for phones. Play outside. See some people in person. Breathe.

Practice Final

- ▶ Take a few minutes to look this over on your own then together
- ▶ Kauffman will answer a few questions on it and post solutions later today

Nothing Ever Ends



- ▶ What you learned will recur in your career at some point and demonstrate whether you learned it well the first time or need another pass.
- ▶ Some of it will change in the future and make you feel old.
- ▶ Expect this and stay determined.

Conclusion

It's been a hell of a semester.
I'm proud of all of you.
Keep up the good work.
Stay safe. Happy Hacking.



