Why C++ in OS course?

There are many languages in the market. Each of the language has its own strength. At the OS level, the most prominent one is C (e.g. Unix is written in C). In this course, we choose Nachos as the teaching OS and it is originally written in C++ (C++ is an object-oriented version of C). Although there exits other versions in Java (not from the originator Professor Tom Anderson), but they are not stable as the compilation is difficult. Furthermore, the use of Java doesn't allow you to control threads, so the OS thread model isn't completely accurate in Nachos (time only advances when Nachos functions are called).

The biggest strengths of C++ is its flexibility. It allows you to go down to the level of C and direct memory addressing which is very suitable at system level programming, i.e. I mean, at OS level.

Hence the choice of C++ in this subject. Thank you for your understanding and I do hope you enjoy learning another computer language which is not so much different from Java.

Ng Geok See
2 August 2006