Systems 3

OS Design

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(Handout)

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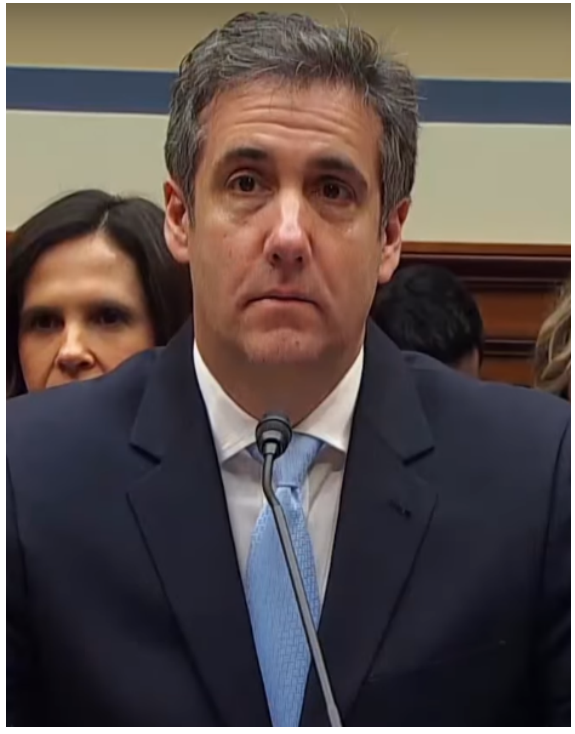
Who is ~~individual~~ process #1?



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Chapter Goals

Boot process

Basic overview of the Linux boot process.

Actor	Actions
BIOS/UEFI	test hardware, execute Master Boot Record
MBR	load and execute Grand Unified Bootloader
GRUB	load kernel and initrd
Kernel	mount root file system and start init
Init	determine run level and start
Runlevel	start various services

Daemons

A daemon is a process that

- runs in background (detached from user session)
- ends traditionally with d (e.g. `syslogd`, `sshd`)
- is often a child of the init process

Daemons in C

To create a daemon in C on a Linux system the following steps have to be executed:

1. Fork and exit parent to run in background
2. Create a new session to detach from controlling terminal (`Ctrl-C`)
3. Handle signals
4. Fork and exit session leader (never have a controlling terminal again)
5. Change file mode mask (optional)
6. Change working directory (optional)
7. Close all open file descriptors
8. If privileged, do privileged operations now and then drop privileges
9. Prepare logging (see `syslog`(3))

```c
pid_t pid;

// Fork off the parent process
pid = fork();

// An error occurred
if (pid < 0)
   exit(EXIT_FAILURE);

// Success: Let the parent terminate
if (pid > 0)
   exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);

// Success: The child process becomes
// the session leader
if (setsid() < 0)
   exit(EXIT_FAILURE);

// Catch, ignore and handle signals
signal(SIGCHLD, SIG_IGN);
signal(SIGHUP, SIG_IGN);
```

```c
// Fork again
pid = fork();

// An error occurred
if (pid < 0)
   exit(EXIT_FAILURE);

// Success: Let the parent terminate
if (pid > 0)
   exit(EXIT_SUCCESS);

// Set new file permissions
umask(0);

// (Change the working directory)
chdir("/");

// Close all open file descriptors
for (int x = sysconf(_SC_OPEN_MAX);
      x >= 0; x--)
   close(x);
```

Example taken from https://github.com/pasce/daemon-skeleton-linux-c

Daemons in C

Of course you could also just use `daemon(3)` ;-)

Init Systems

Daemons are rarely started manually, but instead by an init system, e.g.

- System V
- SystemD
- Upstart
- OpenRC
- runit

History

1. `/etc/rc`
2. `/etc/rc?.d/[SK]*`
3. Dependency graphs

Controlling with systemd

Systemd can be easily controlled by `systemctl(1)`. For example to get the status of a service just call:

```
$ systemctl status sshd
-> ssh.service - OpenBSD Secure Shell server
Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/ssh.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
Active: active (running) since Mon 2019-12-09 11:19:22 CET; 3 days ago
Docs: man:sshd(8)
man:sshd_config(5)
Process: 1505 ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/sshd -t (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)
Main PID: 1542 (sshd)
Tasks: 1 (limit: 4915)
Memory: 4.1M
CGroup: /system.slice/ssh.service
  1542 /usr/sbin/sshd -D
```

Creating a systemd service

To create your own service, just add a file like `webserver.service` to `/etc/systemd/system/` with the following content:

```
1  [Unit]
2  Description=Awesome webserver
3  After=network.target
4  StartLimitIntervalSec=0
5
6  [Service]
7  Type=simple
8  Restart=always
9  RestartSec=1
10 User=www
11 ExecStart=/opt/webserver/server
12
13 [Install]
14 WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Question: Why is the file located in `/etc`?

Filesystem Hierarchy Standard (FHS)[1]

The Filesystem Hierarchy Standard (FHS) defines the directory structure and directory contents in Linux distributions.

/bin	binaries for all users
/boot	boot loader files
/dev	device files
/etc	System-wide configuration files
/lib	Libraries for binaries in /bin and /sbin
/media	Mount point for removable media
/srv	Data served by the system
/tmp	Temporary files
/usr	User System Resources
/var	Variable data

[1] http://refspecs.linuxfoundation.org/FHS_3.0/fhs/index.html

mount(8) and umount(8)

The mount command serves to attach the filesystem found on some device to the big file tree.

1. Find your drive
   `lsblk`
2. Create your mount point
   `sudo mkdir /media/my-usb-drive`
3. Mount your device
   `sudo mount /dev/sdb1 /media/my-usb-drive`
4. Eject your device
   `sudo umount /media/my-usb-drive`
5. Delete your mount point
   `sudo rmdir /media/my-usb-drive`

Process information pseudo-filesystem

The `proc(5)` filesystem is a pseudo-filesystem which provides an interface to kernel data structures.

Some examples are:

/proc/uptime seconds since kernel was booted

/proc/meminfo summary of memory usage

/proc/cpuinfo information about the CPU

/proc/cmdline kernel boot options

/proc/PID/cmdline command that originally started the process

/proc/PID/fd containing all file descriptors

Monitoring

For simple open source tools for Linux system monitoring:

- top
- atop[2]
- htop[3]
- glances[4]

When managing multiple systems, use tools such as Nagios.

[2] https://www.atoptool.nl
[3] https://hisham.hm/htop/
[4] https://nicolargo.github.io/glances/