

ASSIGNMENT

Compare any 3 operating system for the following services:

- Process Management
- Multithreading
- CPU scheduling.

—> Process Management

↳ LINUX

Model: Processes in Linux are isolated execution units with their own address space, file descriptions and environment variables. The kernel uses structures like `task_struct` to manage processes, allowing features like parent child relationships and signals for inter-process communication.

Scheduler: Linux's completely fair scheduler (CFS) keeps track of each process's virtual runtime and tries to ensure proportional CPU allocation. Processes are organized in a red-black tree structure to efficiently determine which process should run next.

Control & Tools: Commands like ps, top, htop, and kill allow detailed process control. nice and renice let users influence priority levels, while cgroups (control groups) offer fine-grained resource allocation by grouping processes.

↳ WINDOWS

Model: Windows uses the NT kernel's process model, where each process has a unique process control block (PCB), its own virtual address space, and handles for objects like files and events. The process architecture supports threads as lightweight execution unit within processes.

Scheduler: Windows employs a priority-driven preemotive scheduling system with real-time and base priority classes. It dynamically adjusts priorities based on CPU usage and interactivity, giving preference to foreground applications for better response.

②

Control & Tools : The task manager provides a graphical interface for process inspection, while APIs like OpenProcess allow programmatic process manipulation. Power users can leverage Wmic and Powershell commands for automation.

↳ macOS

Model : macOS is built on the XNU kernel, which integrates Mach and BSD components. Each process has its own memory space and can create threads managed by kernel.

Scheduler : macOS's scheduler is a hybrid model combining pre-emptive multitasking with cooperative elements in certain contexts. It adapts to workloads, ensuring smooth UI responsiveness while balancing CPU resources across processes.

Control & Tools : User can monitor processes via top, ps, and Activity Monitor. Developers can manipulate processes through Mach APIs, BSD commands, or higher-level frameworks like Grand Central Dispatch (GCD), which abstracts thread & process management.

→ Multithreading

↳ LINUX

Model : linux supports kernel threads as well as user threads implemented via the Native POSIX Thread Library (NPTL).

Threads share the process's memory space, open files, and other resources but have individual stack, registers and thread IDs.

Implementation : The clone() system call allows processes to share resources like memory and file descriptors selectively, enabling lightweight threads. Thread scheduling integrates with the CFS for fairness.

Control & Tools : The pthread library provides functions such as pthread_create, pthread_join, pthread_mutex_lock, allowing fine control over thread creation, synchronization, and communication. Debugging is supported via gdb and other tools.

↳ WINDOWS

Model : In windows, threads are treated as the primary execution unit within processes. Each thread has its own stack, CPU context, and priority but shares the process's virtual memory and handles.

Implementation : Threads are created using the `CreateThread` or `_beginthreadx` functions. The kernel schedules threads based on priority classes and quantum times, allowing applications to specify real-time or background scheduling preferences.

Control & Tools : The windows API includes thread manipulation functions such as `SuspendThread`, `ResumeThread`, `SetThreadPriority`, and `WaitForSingleObject`. Performance monitoring tools and debuggers allow tracking of thread states, resource consumption, and deadlocks.

↳ mac OS

Model : macOS threads are kernel-managed, and processes can spawn multiple threads sharing resources like memory and file descriptions. Apple provides higher-level abstractions for concurrency to simplify multithreading.

Implementation : In addition to POSIX threads (pthread), macOS emphasizes Grand Central Dispatch (GCD) and operation queues to handle thread pools, task scheduling, and load balancing across cores. This framework dynamically optimizes resources utilization.

Control & Tools : Developers can use pthread for low-level threading or leverage GCD for higher-level constructs such as dispatch queues, barriers, and semaphores. Instruments and Activity Monitor help trace thread contention, CPU spikes, and deadlocks.

→ CPU Scheduling

↳ LINUX

Algorithm: The completely fair scheduler (CFS) ensures that processes are allocated CPU time proportionally based on their weight and runtime history. It prevents starvation by tracking virtual runtime and balancing fairness and efficiency.

Features: Linux allows setting CPU affinity using `taskset`, enabling processes to run on specific cores, which is useful for performance tuning. Real-time scheduling policies (`SCHED-RR`) are available for time-sensitive tasks.

Control & Tools: Users can adjust priorities with `nice` and `renice`, or directly manipulate scheduling policies using `chrt`. System monitoring via `htop` displays CPU usage by process or thread, while `perf` offers advanced profiling.

↳ WINDOWS

Algorithm: Windows uses a priority class, pre-emptive scheduler with a combination of real-time and variable priority classes. It dynamically boosts priorities to prevent UI sluggishness and balances between CPU-bound and I/O-bound processes.

Features: The system distinguishes b/w base priority and dynamic priority, allowing applications to request more or less CPU time. Windows also optimizes scheduling based on process state transitions, like waiting for I/O.

Control & Tools: SetThreadPriority and SetProcessPriority let developers influence scheduling, while Task manager provides a graphical overview of CPU load and active processes. Performance counters (perfmon) and PowerShell scripts provide deeper insights.

L) macOS

Algorithm: macOS employs a hybrid scheduler combining preemptive multitasking for general workloads and cooperative adjustments in UI-intensive or multimedia contexts. It optimizes for responsiveness and energy efficiency.

Features: CPU scheduling integrates with system-wide power management, intelligently scaling CPU frequency and adjusting task priorities based on workload patterns, especially on Apple's M-series chips.

Control & Tools: Users can adjust process priority using *menice*, while developers can fine-tune dispatch queues in GCD. Instruments offers detailed CPU activity traces, and Activity Monitor gives real-time data on thread utilization.