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INTER-PROCESS COMMUNICATION CONCEPT

Food for Thought!

Is it possible to have concurrency but not parallelism?

Concurrent Processes

 Processes executing concurrently in the operating system is of two types:

1. Independent processes

- A process is independent if it *cannot affect or be affected* by the other processes executing in the system.
- Any process that does not share data with any other process is independent.

2. Cooperating processes

- A process is cooperating if it *can affect or be affected* by the other processes executing in the system.
- That is, any process that *shares data* with other processes is a cooperating process.

Reasons for Cooperating Processes

- Information sharing
- Computation speedup
- Modularity
- Convenience

Inter-process Communication (IPC)

Cooperating processes require an inter-process communication (IPC)
mechanism that will allow them to exchange data and information.

There are two fundamental models of inter-process communication:

Shared memory

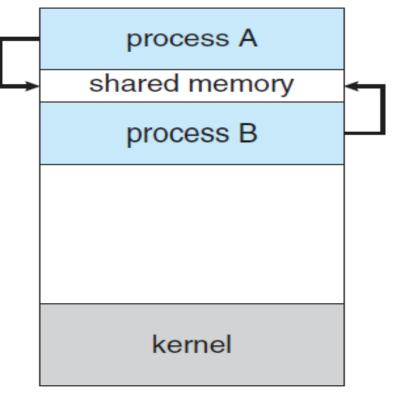
➤ Message passing

Shared Memory Model

• In the shared-memory model, a *region of memory* that is shared by cooperating processes is established.

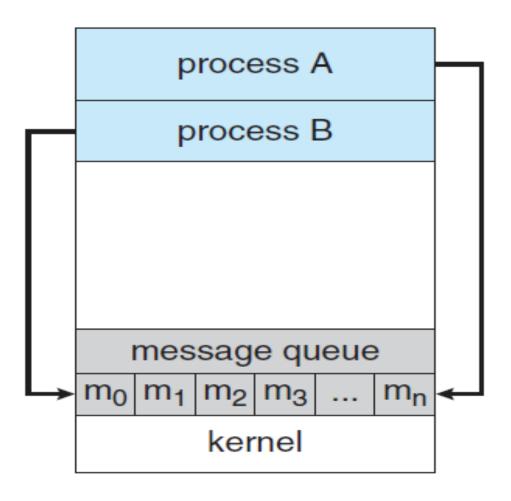
Processes can then exchange information by reading and writing data

to the shared region.



Message Passing Model

• In the message-passing model, communication takes place by means of *messages exchanged* between the cooperating processes.



References

- 1. Silberschatz, Galvin and Gagne, "Operating Systems Concepts", Wiley.
- 2. William Stallings, "Operating Systems: Internals and Design Principles", 6th Edition, Pearson Education.
- 3. D M Dhamdhere, "Operating Systems: A Concept based Approach", 2nd Edition, TMH.

