# The Swish Concurrency Engine

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction to Swish

## 1.1 Overview

The Swish Concurrency Engine is a framework used to write fault-tolerant programs with message-passing concurrency. It uses the Chez Scheme [6] programming language and embeds concepts from the Erlang [8] programming language. Swish also provides a web server following the HTTP protocol [13].

Swish uses message-passing concurrency and fault isolation to provide fault-tolerant software [1, 16]. The software is divided into lightweight processes that communicate via asynchronous message passing but are otherwise isolated from each other. Because processes share no mutable state, one process cannot corrupt the state of another process—a problem that plagues software using shared-state concurrency.

Exceptions are raised when the software detects an error and cannot continue normal processing. If an exception is not caught by the process that raised it, the process is terminated. An error logger records process crashes and other software errors.

There are two mechanisms for detecting process termination, *links* and *monitors*. Processes can be linked together so that when one exits abnormally, the others are killed. A process can monitor other processes and receive process-down messages that include the termination reason.

A single event dispatcher receives events from the various processes and sends them to all attached event handlers. Event handlers filter events based on their needs.

Swish is written in Chez Scheme for two main reasons. First, it provides efficient first-class continuations [4, 18] needed to implement lightweight processes with much less memory and CPU overhead than operating system threads. Second, Chez Scheme provides powerful syntactic abstraction capabilities [7] needed to make the code closely reflect the various aspects of the design. For example, the message-passing system uses syntactic abstraction to specify pattern matching succinctly.

I/O operations are performed asynchronously using C code (see Chapter 2), and they complete via Scheme callback functions. Asynchronous I/O is used so that Swish can run in a single thread without blocking for I/O. The results from asynchronous operations are invoked synchronously by the Scheme code, allowing it to control re-entrancy.

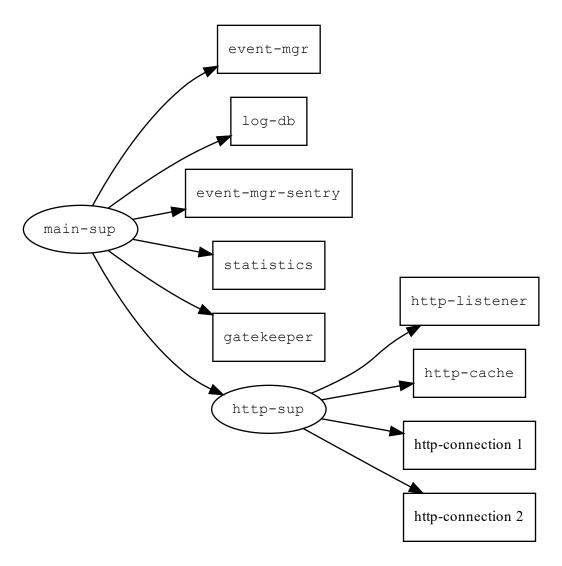


Figure 1.1: Supervision Tree

## 1.2 Supervision Tree

By default, Swish uses the supervision tree illustrated in Figure 1.1. The top-level supervisor, main-sup, is configured one-for-all and no restarts so that a failure of any of its children crashes the program. The event-mgr worker is the event manager gen-server (see Chapter 5). The log-db worker is a database gen-server (see Chapter 10) that logs all events to the log database. The event-mgr-sentry worker is used during shutdown to make sure the event manager stops sending events to log-db before log-db shuts down. The statistics worker is a system statistics gen-server (see Chapter 11) that periodically posts a <statistics> event. The gatekeeper worker is the gen-server described in Chapter 6.

The http-sup supervisor is configured one-for-one with up to 10 restarts every 10 seconds. The http-listener, http-cache, and http-connection processes are described in Chapter 12.

When running as a Windows service, Swish is configured to restart automatically 10 seconds after a failure. The failure is logged to the log file, and an event is logged to the Windows event log.

# Chapter 2

# Operating System Interface

## 2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the operating system interface. Swish is written in Chez Scheme and runs on Linux, macOS, and Windows. It provides asynchronous I/O via libuv [19] and database support via SQLite [20].

## 2.2 Theory of Operation

The operating system interface is written in C99 [5] as a shared library that is statically linked against the libuv and SQLite libraries and dynamically linked against single-threaded Chez Scheme 9.5. Please refer to Chapter 4 of the *Chez Scheme Version 9 User's Guide* [6] for information on the foreign function interface.

The single-threaded version of Chez Scheme is used because of its simplicity. All Scheme code runs in the main thread. In order to keep this thread responsive, operations that block for more than a millisecond are performed asynchronously.

For each asynchronous function in the operating system interface, a Scheme callback procedure is passed as the last argument. This callback procedure is later returned to Scheme in a list that includes the results of the asynchronous function call.

Scheme object locking and unlocking is handled by the operating system interface because it manages the data structures that contain pointers to Scheme objects.

The operating system interface uses port objects for files, console input, pipes to other processes, and TCP/IP connections. A port object is created by the various open functions, which return a port handle that is used for read, write, and close operations. Once a port is closed, its port object is freed.

For interface functions that can fail, an error pair (who . errno) is returned, where who is a symbol representing the name of the particular function that failed and errno is either an error number or, in the case of certain SQLite functions, a pair whose car is the error number and cdr is the English error string.

Section 2.3 describes the programming interface from the C side. The Scheme library (osi) provides foreign procedures for each C function using the same name. For functions that may return error pair (who . errno), the corresponding Scheme procedure p, e.g., osi\_read\_port, raises exception #(osi-error p who errno). In addition, the (osi) library exports another procedure with the \* suffix, e.g., osi\_read\_port\*, that returns the error pair.

## 2.3 Programming Interface

Unless otherwise noted, all C strings are encoded in UTF-8.

## 2.3.1 System Functions

```
ptr osi_get_argv(void);
function
```

The osi\_get\_argv function returns a Scheme vector of strings constructed from the most recent arguments passed to osi\_set\_argv.

```
size_t osi_get_bytes_used(void); function
```

The osi\_get\_bytes\_used function returns the number of bytes used by the C run-time heap. On Linux, it calls the mallinfo function. On macOS, it calls the mstats function. On Windows, it calls the \_heapwalk function.

```
ptr osi\_get\_callbacks(uint64\_t timeout); function
```

The osi\_get\_callbacks function returns a list of callback lists in reverse order of time received. When the list is empty, it blocks up to *timeout* milliseconds before returning. Each callback list has the form (*callback result* ...), where *callback* is the callback procedure passed to the asynchronous function that returned one or more *results*.

```
const char* osi_get_error_text(int err); function
```

The osi\_get\_error\_text function returns the English string for the given error number.

```
ptr osi_get_hostname(void); function
```

The osi\_get\_hostname function returns the host name from uv\_os\_gethostname.

```
uint64_t osi_get_hrtime(void); function
```

The osi\_get\_hrtime function returns the current high-resolution real time in nanoseconds from uv\_hrtime. It is not related to the time of day and is not subject to clock drift.

## uint64\_t osi\_get\_time(void);

function

The osi\_get\_time function returns the current clock time in milliseconds in UTC since the UNIX epoch January 1, 1970. On Windows, it calls the GetSystemTimeAsFileTime function in kernel32.dll. On all other systems, it calls the clock\_gettime function with CLOCK\_REALTIME.

int osi\_is\_tick\_over(void);

function

The osi\_is\_tick\_over function returns 1 if the current time from uv\_hrtime is greater than or equal to the threshold set by the most recent call to osi\_set\_tick and 0 otherwise.

ptr osi\_list\_uv\_handles(void);

function

The osi\_list\_uv\_handles function calls uv\_walk and returns a list of pairs (handle . type), where handle is the address of the uv\_handle\_t and type is the uv\_handle\_type.

ptr osi\_make\_uuid(void);

function

The osi\_make\_uuid function returns a new universally unique identifier (UUID) as a bytevector. On Windows, it calls the UuidCreate function in rpcrt4.dll. On all other systems, it calls the uuid\_generate function.

(string->uuid s)

procedure

returns: a UUID bytevector

The string->uuid procedure returns the bytevector *uuid* for string *s* such that (uuid->string *uuid*) is equivalent to *s*, ignoring case. If *s* is not a string with uppercase or lowercase hexadecimal digits and hyphens as shown in uuid->string, exception #(bad-arg string->uuid *s*) is raised.

(uuid->string uuid)

procedure

returns: a string

The uuid->string procedure returns the uppercase hexadecimal string representation of uuid,  $HH_3HH_2HH_1HH_0-HH_5HH_4-HH_7HH_6-HH_8HH_9-HH_{10}HH_{11}HH_{12}HH_{13}HH_{14}HH_{15}$ , where  $HH_i$  is the 2-character uppercase hexadecimal representation of the octet at index i of bytevector uuid. If uuid is not a bytevector of length 16, exception #(bad-arg uuid->string uuid) is raised.

void osi\_set\_argv(int argc, const char \*argv[]);

function

The osi\_set\_argv function stores the argv pointer to a C vector of argc strings for use in the osi\_get\_argv function. It does not copy the strings, so the caller must not deallocate the memory for the arguments.

void osi\_set\_tick(uint64\_t nanoseconds);

function

The osi\_set\_tick function sets the threshold for osi\_is\_tick\_over to be the current time from uv\_hrtime plus the given number of nanoseconds.

#### 2.3.2 Port Functions

The port functions in this section provide generic read, write, and close operations for port objects. The specific implementation depends on the type of port object.

```
ptr osi_read_port(uptr port, ptr buffer, size_t start_index, uint32_t size, int64_t offset, ptr callback); function
```

The osi\_read\_port function issues a read on the given port of size bytes into the bytevector buffer at the zero-based  $start\_index$ . For file ports, offset specifies the starting file position or -1 for the current position; for all other port types, offset must be -1. The function returns #t when the read operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the read operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback result), where result is the nonnegative number of bytes read when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

```
ptr osi_write_port(uptr port, ptr buffer, size_t start_index, uint32_t size, int64 t offset, ptr callback); function
```

The osi\_write\_port function issues a write on the given port of size bytes from the bytevector buffer at the zero-based  $start\_index$ . For file ports, offset specifies the starting file position or -1 for the current position; for all other port types, offset must be -1. The function returns #t when the write operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the write operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback result), where result is the nonnegative number of bytes written when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

```
ptr osi\_close\_port(uptr port, ptr callback); function
```

The osi\_close\_port function issues a close on the given port. It returns #t when the close operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the close operation finishes, it deallocates the port object and enqueues the callback list (callback errno), where errno is 0 when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

#### 2.3.3 Process Functions

```
void osi exit(int status); function
```

The osi\_exit function calls the \_exit function to terminate the current process with the given exit *status*. It does not return. The exit function is not used because on Unix systems it blocks if there is an outstanding read on stdin.

```
ptr osi_spawn(const char* path, ptr args, ptr callback); function
```

The osi\_spawn function uses the uv\_spawn function to create a process with the list of string-valued args whose standard input, output and error are connected to pipes. It returns #(to-stdin

from-stdout from-stderr pid) when the process has been successfully created and an error pair otherwise. to-stdin is a port handle for writing bytes to standard input, from-stdout is a port handle for reading bytes from standard output, from-stderr is a port handle for reading bytes from standard error, and pid is an integer identifying the process.

When the process exits, the callback list (callback pid exit-status term-signal) is enqueued, where pid is the integer process identifier, exit-status is the integer exit status, and term-signal is the integer termination signal or 0 if the process did not terminate because of a signal.

```
ptr osi kill(int pid, int signum);
```

function

function

The osi\_kill function uses the uv\_kill function to send termination signal *signum* to the process identified by *pid*. It returns #t when successful and an error pair otherwise.

## 2.3.4 File System Functions

```
ptr osi_open_file(const char* path, int flags, int mode, ptr callback);
```

The osi\_open\_file function issues an open using the uv\_fs\_open function and the given path, flags, and mode. It returns #t when the open operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the open operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback result), where result is the nonnegative port handle when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

The following constants are defined for *flags*:

```
O_APPEND
              O_CREAT
                         O_DIRECT
                                         O_DIRECTORY
                                                         O_DSYNC
                                                                      O_EXCL
O_EXLOCK
              O_NOATIME
                         O_NOCTTY
                                         O_NOFOLLOW
                                                         O_NONBLOCK
                                                                      O_RANDOM
O_RDONLY
              O_RDWR
                         O_SEQUENTIAL
                                        O_SHORT_LIVED
                                                         O_SYMLINK
                                                                      O_SYNC
                         O_WRONLY
O_TEMPORARY
             O_TRUNC
```

The following constants are defined for *mode*:

```
S IFMT S IFIFO S IFCHR S IFDIR S IFBLK S IFREG S IFLNK S IFSOCK
```

```
ptr osi_get_executable_path(void);
```

function

The osi\_get\_executable\_path function uses the uv\_exepath function to return the full path string of the executable file of the current process when successful and an error pair otherwise.

```
ptr osi_get_file_size(uptr port, ptr callback);
```

function

The osi\_get\_file\_size function uses the uv\_fs\_fstat function to issue a status operation on the file associated with the given file port. It returns #t when the status operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the status operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback result), where result is the nonnegative file size when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

```
ptr osi_get_real_path(const char* path, ptr callback);
```

function

The osi\_get\_real\_path function uses the uv\_fs\_realpath function to issue a realpath operation on the file associated with the given file *port*. It returns #t when the realpath operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the realpath operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (*callback result*), where *result* is the string path when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

```
uptrosi get stdin(void);
```

function

The osi\_get\_stdin function returns a handle to a static port that reads from the standard input of the current process. This port cannot be closed.

```
ptr osi_get_temp_directory(void);
```

function

The osi\_get\_temp\_directory function uses the uv\_os\_tmpdir function to return the string path of the temporary directory and an error pair otherwise.

```
ptr osi_chmod(const char* path, int mode, ptr callback);
```

function

The osi\_chmod function issues a chmod operation using the uv\_fs\_chmod function and the given path and mode. It returns #t when the chmod operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the chmod operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback errno), where errno is 0 when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

```
ptr osi_make_directory(const char* path, int mode, ptr callback);
```

function

The osi\_make\_directory function issues a mkdir operation using the uv\_fs\_mkdir function with the given path and mode. It returns #t when the mkdir operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the mkdir operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback errno), where errno is 0 when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

```
ptr osi_list_directory(const char* path, ptr callback);
```

function

The osi\_list\_directory function issues a scandir operation using the uv\_fs\_scandir function with the given path. It returns #t when the scandir operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the scandir operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback result), where result is ((name . type) ...) when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

name is the string name of the directory entry, and type is one of the following constants:

```
DIRENT_UNKNOWN DIRENT_FILE DIRENT_DIR DIRENT_LINK DIRENT_FIFO DIRENT_SOCKET DIRENT_CHAR DIRENT_BLOCK
```

```
ptr osi_remove_directory(const char* path, ptr callback);
```

function

The osi\_remove\_directory function issues a rmdir operation using the uv\_fs\_rmdir function with the given path. It returns #t when the rmdir operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the rmdir operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback errno), where errno is 0 when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

function

The osi\_rename function issues a rename operation using the uv\_fs\_rename function of path to new\_path. It returns #t when the rename operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the rename operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback errno), where errno is 0 when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

```
ptr osi_get_stat(const char* path, int follow, ptr callback);
```

function

The osi\_get\_stat function issues a status operation on the given path. When follow is non-zero, it uses the uv\_fs\_stat function to follow a symbolic link; otherwise, it uses the uv\_fs\_lstat function. It returns #t when the status operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the status operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback result), where result is a <stat> tuple when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

<stat> tuple

dev: device ID of the device containing the file

*mode*: mode of the file

nlink: number of hard links to the file

uid: user ID of the filegid: group ID of the file

rdev: device ID if file is character or block special

*ino*: file serial number

size: For regular files, the file size in bytes. For symbolic links, the length in

bytes of the path in the link.

blksize: optimal block size for I/O

blocks: number of blocks allocated for the file

 $\mathit{flags}$ : user-defined flags for the file

gen: file generation number

atime: time of last access

mtime: time of last data modification ctime: time of last status change

birthtime: time of file creation

The time entries contain (sec . nsec), where sec is the number of seconds in UTC since the UNIX epoch January 1, 1970, and nsec is the number of nanoseconds after sec.

### ptr osi\_unlink(const char\* path, ptr callback);

function

The osi\_unlink function issues an unlink operation using the uv\_fs\_unlink function with the given path. It returns #t when the unlink operation is issued and an error pair otherwise. When the unlink operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback errno), where errno is 0 when successful and a negative error code otherwise.

```
ptr osi_watch_path(const char* path, ptr callback);
```

function

The osi\_watch\_path function uses the uv\_fs\_event\_start function to track changes to path. When path is a directory, its subdirectories are not tracked. Every time a change is detected, a callback list (callback filename events) is enqueued, where events is 1 for rename, 2 for change, and 3 for rename and change. If the watcher encounters an error, the callback list (callback errno) is enqueued.

The osi\_watch\_path function returns a path watcher handle when successful and an error pair otherwise.

```
void osi_close_path_watcher(uptr watcher);
function
```

The osi\_close\_path\_watcher function stops and closes the path watcher from osi\_watch\_path.

## 2.3.5 TCP/IP Functions

```
ptr osi_connect_tcp(const char* node, const char* service, ptr callback); function
```

The osi\_connect\_tcp function initiates a TCP/IP connection to host node on port service. It returns #t when the operation starts and an error pair otherwise. The node string may be a host name or numeric host address string, and the service string may be a service name or port number represented as a string. The uv\_getaddrinfo function is used to retrieve a list of addresses. For the first address for which a connection succeeds using the uv\_tcp\_connect function, the completion list (callback port) is enqueued, where port is a handle to a port that reads from and writes to this connection. When the operation fails, the callback list (callback error-pair) is enqueued.

```
ptr osi_listen_tcp(const char* address, uint16_t port, ptr callback); function
```

The osi\_listen\_tcp function starts a TCP/IP listener on the given *port* of the IPv4 or IPv6 interface specified by *address* using the uv\_listen function. It returns a TCP/IP listener handle when successful and an error pair otherwise.

Specify an IPv4 interface address using dot-decimal notation, e.g. 127.0.0.1. Use 0.0.0.0 to specify all IPv4 interfaces.

Specify an IPv6 interface address using colon-hexadecimal notation, e.g. ::1. Use :: to specify all IPv6 interfaces.

Specify port 0 to have the operating system choose an available port number, which can be queried using osi\_get\_tcp\_listener\_port.

When a connection is accepted, the callback list (callback port) is enqueued, where port is a handle to a port that reads from and writes to this connection. When a connection fails, the callback list (callback error-pair) is enqueued.

```
void osi_close_tcp_listener(uptr listener);
function
```

The osi\_close\_tcp\_listener function closes the given TCP/IP *listener* opened by osi\_listen\_-tcp. It returns #t when successful and an error pair otherwise.

```
ptr osi_get_tcp_listener_port(uptr listener);
```

function

The osi\_get\_tcp\_listener\_port function returns the port number of the given TCP/IP listener opened by osi\_listen\_tcp when successful and an error pair otherwise.

```
ptr osi_get_ip_address(uptr port);
```

function

The osi\_get\_ip\_address function uses the uv\_tcp\_getpeername function to return a string representation of the address of the peer of a TCP/IP *port* opened by osi\_connect\_tcp or osi\_listen\_tcp when successful and an error pair otherwise.

An IPv4 address is shown in dot-decimal notation followed by a colon and the port number, e.g. 127.0.0.1:80.

An IPv6 address is shown in bracketed colon-hexadecimal notation followed by a colon and the port number, e.g. [::1]:80.

## 2.3.6 SQLite Functions

For each open SQLite database, a worker thread performs the operations so that the main thread is not blocked. SQLite is compiled in multi-thread mode. The documentation states: "In this mode, SQLite can be safely used by multiple threads provided that no single database connection is used simultaneously in two or more threads." **Concern:** Two threads simultaneously access a SQLite database connection. **Mitigation:** The operating system interface maintains a busy bit for each database handle. Functions attempting to access a busy database return the error pair (function-name . UV\_EBUSY).

SQLite has five data types, which are mapped as follows to Scheme data types:

SQLite	Scheme
NULL	#f
INTEGER	exact integer
REAL	flonum
TEXT	string
BLOB	bytevector

SQLite extended result codes are enabled. Because the error codes overlap system error codes, the operating system interface maps them to system error codes by negating the sum of the result code and 6,000,000. The osi\_get\_error\_text function supports these mapped error codes.

ptr osi\_open\_database(const char\* filename, int flags, ptr callback);

function

The osi\_open\_database function starts a worker thread that uses the sqlite3\_open\_v2 function to open the database specified by the *filename* string and *flags*. The *flags* specify, for example, whether the database should be opened in read-only mode or whether it should be created when the file does not exist. The function returns #t when the thread is created and an error pair otherwise.

When the open operation finishes, it enqueues the callback list (callback result), where result is the database handle when successful and an error pair otherwise.

## ptr osi\_close\_database(uptr database, ptr callback);

function

The osi\_close\_database function starts a close operation in the given database worker thread. It returns #t when the operation is started and an error pair otherwise.

After the worker thread finalizes all prepared statements, it uses the sqlite3\_close function to close the *database*. When finished, it enqueues the callback list (*callback result*), where *result* is #t when successful and an error pair otherwise.

#### ptr osi\_prepare\_statement(uptr database, ptr sql, ptr callback);

function

The osi\_prepare\_statement function starts a prepare operation on the given database worker thread. It returns #t when the operation is started and an error pair otherwise.

The worker thread uses the sqlite3\_prepare\_v2 function to prepare the given sql statement. It enqueues the callback list (callback result), where result is the statement handle when successful and an error pair otherwise.

#### ptr osi\_finalize\_statement(uptr statement);

function

The osi\_finalize\_statement function uses the sqlite3\_finalize function to finalize the *state-ment*. It returns #t when successful and an error pair otherwise. The return code from sqlite3\_-finalize is not checked because the statement is finalized regardless of the return value.

### ptr osi\_bind\_statement(uptr statement, int index, ptr datum);

function

The osi\_bind\_statement function maps the Scheme datum to SQLite and binds it to the statement at the zero-based SQL parameter index. It returns #t when successful and an error pair otherwise. The error pair (osi\_bind\_statement . UV\_EINVAL) is returned when datum cannot be mapped to SQLite.

#### ptr osi\_clear\_statement\_bindings(uptr statement);

function

The osi\_clear\_statement\_bindings function uses the sqlite3\_clear\_bindings function to clear the bindings for the *statement*. It returns #t when successful and an error pair otherwise.

#### ptr osi\_get\_last\_insert\_rowid(uptr database);

function

The osi\_get\_last\_insert\_rowid function uses the sqlite3\_last\_insert\_rowid function to return the last insert rowid of the *database* when successful and an error pair otherwise.

#### ptr osi\_get\_statement\_columns(uptr statement);

function

The osi\_get\_statement\_columns function uses the sqlite3\_column\_count and sqlite3\_column\_name functions to return a vector of column name strings for the *statement* when successful and an error pair otherwise.

ptr osi\_get\_statement\_expanded\_sql(uptr statement);

function

The osi\_get\_statement\_expanded\_sql function uses the sqlite3\_expanded\_sql function to return the expanded SQL string associated with the *statement* when successful and an error pair otherwise.

ptr osi\_reset\_statement(uptr statement);

function

The osi\_reset\_statement function uses the sqlite3\_reset function to reset the *statement*. It returns #t when successful and an error pair otherwise.

ptr osi\_step\_statement(uptr statement, ptr callback);

function

The osi\_step\_statement function issues a step operation on the database worker thread associated with *statement*. It returns #t when the operation is started and an error pair otherwise.

The worker thread uses the sqlite3\_step function to execute the *statement*. If it returns SQLITE\_-DONE, the callback list (*callback* #f) is enqueued. If it returns SQLITE\_ROW, the callback list (*callback* #(*value* ...)) is enqueued with the vector of column values mapped from SQLite to Scheme. Otherwise, the callback list (*callback error-pair*) is enqueued.

void osi\_interrupt\_database(uptr database);

function

The osi\_interrupt\_database function calls the sqlite3\_interrupt function to interrupt the current operation of the *database*.

ptr osi\_get\_sqlite\_status(int operation, int resetp);

function

The osi\_get\_sqlite\_status function uses the sqlite3\_status64 function with the given operation and reset flag to return #(current highwater) when successful and an error pair otherwise.

## Chapter 3

# **Erlang Embedding**

## 3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the design of the message-passing concurrency model. It provides a Scheme embedding of a significant subset of the Erlang programming language [1, 2]. Tuple and pattern matching macros provide succinct ways of composing and decomposing data structures.

The basic unit of sequential computation is the *process*. Each process has independent state and communicates with other processes by message passing. Because processes share no mutable state, one process cannot corrupt the state of another process—a problem that plagues software using shared-state concurrency. **Concern:** System procedures that mutate data can cause state corruption. **Mitigation:** The code is inspected for use of these procedures.

An uncaught exception in one process does not affect any other process. A process can be monitored for termination, and it can be linked to another process so that, when either process exits, the other one receives an exit signal. Processes are implemented with one-shot continuations [4], and the concurrent system is simulated by the single-threaded program using software timer interrupts. The operating system interface (see Chapter 2) provides asynchronous input/output (I/O) so that processes waiting for I/O do not stop other processes from executing.

For exceptions, we use Erlang's approach of encoding the information in a machine-readable datum rather than a formatted string. Doing so makes it possible to write code that matches particular exceptions without having to parse strings, and the exception is human language independent.

The rest of this chapter is organized as follows. Section 3.2 introduces the main data structures, Section 3.3 describes how the concurrency model works, and Section 3.4 gives the programming interface.

## 3.2 Data Structures

q Queues are used in several key places: the inbox of messages for each process, the list of processes ready to run, and the list of sleeping processes. A queue is a doubly-linked list with a sentinel value,

Tuples, denoted by  $\{e_1, \ldots, e_n\}$  in Erlang, are implemented as vectors:  $\#(e_1 \ldots e_n)$ . Similarly records, defined as syntactic sugar over tuples in Erlang, are implemented as syntactic sugar over vectors.

the queue's identity. Both the sentinel value and the elements of the queue are instances of q, a Scheme record type with mutable prev and next fields. This representation enables constant-time insertion and deletion operations.

msg When a *message* is sent to a process, its contents are wrapped in an instance of msg, a Scheme record type that extends q with an immutable contents field. This msg is inserted into the process's inbox and removed when the process receives it.

pcb A process is an instance of pcb, a Scheme record type that extends q with an immutable id field, the process's unique positive exact integer, an immutable create-time field, the process's create time from erlang:now, and the following mutable fields:

- name: registered name or #f
- cont: one-shot continuation if live and not currently running or #f otherwise
- sic: system interrupt count
- winders: list of winders if live and not currently running or () otherwise
- exception-state: exception state if live and not currently running, exit reason if dead, or #f if currently running
- inbox: queue of msg if live or #f if dead
- precedence: wake time if sleeping or 0 if ready to run
- flags: fixnum with bit 0 set when sleeping, bit 1 set when the process traps exits, and bit 2 set when the process is blocked for I/O
- links: list of linked processes
- monitors: list of monitors
- src: source location #(at *char-offset filename*) when available if waiting in a receive macro, a string if blocked for I/O, or #f

mon A *monitor* is an instance of mon, a Scheme record type with two immutable fields, origin and target, each of which is a process.

osi-port An *osi-port* is an instance of osi-port, a Scheme record type with an immutable name field, an immutable create-time field, and a mutable handle field that wraps an operating system interface port. The handle field is set to #f when the osi-port is closed.

path-watcher A path watcher is an instance of path-watcher, a Scheme record type with an immutable path field, an immutable create-time field, and a mutable handle field. The handle field is set to #f when the path watcher is closed.

listener A TCP listener is an instance of listener, a Scheme record type with immutable address, port-number, and create-time fields and a mutable handle field. The handle field is set to #f when the listener is closed.

## 3.3 Theory of Operation

The system uses a *scheduler* to execute one process at a time. Each process holds its own system interrupt count (updated by enable-interrupts and disable-interrupts), list of winders (maintained by dynamic-wind and the system primitive \$current-winders), and exception state (maintained by current-exception-state). The scheduler captures the one-shot continuation for a process with an empty list of winders so that, when it invokes the continuation of another process, it does not run any winders. Concern: Using a system procedure that relies on the global winders list may lead to incorrect behavior. Mitigation: System procedures that rely on the global winders list are called from only one process at a time using the *gatekeeper* described in Chapter 6. The gatekeeper hooks the \$cp0, \$np-compile, pretty-print, and sc-expand system primitives.

Spawning a new process is not as simple as capturing a one-shot continuation and creating a pcb record, because the continuation's stack link [18] would be the continuation of the caller, and its list of winders would be the caller's. Thus, the scheduler remembers the current list of winders and then sets it to the empty list before capturing a one-shot continuation. This return continuation is stored in a mutable variable so that it is not closed over by the new process. Next, a full continuation is captured to create the initial exception state that will terminate the new process when an uncaught exception is raised. So that this full continuation does not refer to the caller's continuation, the current stack link is set to the null continuation before capturing it. After capturing the full continuation, a one-shot continuation for the new process is captured and returned to the caller via the return continuation.

Each process runs until it waits in a receive macro or wait-for-io procedure, is preempted by the timer-interrupt-handler, or exits. The operating system interface (see Chapter 2) provides asynchronous I/O operations so that the scheduler can execute other processes while the system is performing I/O. The timer interrupt handler runs every 1000 procedure calls.<sup>2</sup> The scheduler uses osi\_set\_tick and osi\_is\_tick\_over to determine when the time quantum for a process has elapsed.

When process p exits with reason r, the message #(DOWN m p r) is sent to each of its monitor m's origin processes. The message #(EXIT p r) is sent to each linked process that traps exits. If r is not normal, each linked process that does not trap exits is killed with reason r.

A process can be registered with a global name, a symbol. This name can be used instead of the process record itself to send it messages. A global *registrar* maintains an eq-hashtable mapping names to processes. The reverse mapping is maintained in the pcb record through the name field.

There are two system processes: the event-loop and the finalizer.

The event-loop process calls <code>osi\_get\_callbacks</code> to retrieve callback lists from the operating system interface. It executes each callback with interrupts disabled. Event-loop callbacks are designed to execute quickly without failing or causing new completion packets to be enqueued. Typical callbacks

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>1000 was chosen because Chez Scheme performs its internal interrupt checks every 1000 ticks.

register objects that wrap operating system interface handles with a guardian and send messages to a process. If the event-loop process exits with reason r, the system logs the event #(event-loop-process-terminated r) with console-event-handler and calls osi\_exit with exit code 80.

The scheduler maintains the *run queue*, a queue of ready-to-run processes, and the *sleep queue*, a queue of sleeping processes. Both are ordered by increasing precedence and preserve the order of insertion for processes with the same precedence. For the run queue, each process has precedence 0 in order to implement round-robin scheduling. For the sleep queue, each process uses its wake time as the precedence.

When the run queue is empty, the event-loop process calls osi\_get\_callbacks with a non-zero timeout based on the first entry in the sleep queue to avoid busy waiting. When the event-loop process finishes processing all completion packets, it places itself at the end of the run queue.

Concern: Some process may starve another process. Mitigation: The run queue is managed with round-robin scheduling to prevent starvation. The event-loop process does not starve other processes because it drains the completion queue without causing new completion packets to be enqueued.

The finalizer process runs the finalizers registered via add-finalizer. These finalizers typically close operating system interface handles to objects that are no longer accessible. Concern: Ill-behaved finalizers may cause memory and handle leaks. Mitigation: Finalizers are designed to execute quickly without failing. Typical finalizers guard against errors when closing handles. If the finalizer process exits with reason r, the system logs the event #(finalizer-process-terminated r) with console-event-handler and calls osi\_exit with exit code 80.

Once the finalizer process runs all the finalizers, it waits until another garbage collection has occurred before running again. The system hooks the collect procedure so that it sends a wake-up message to the finalizer process every time a garbage collection occurs. When the finalizer receives the wake-up message, it pumps all other wake-up messages from its inbox, since there may have been more than one garbage collection since it last ran.

Asynchronous I/O operations for COM ports, named pipes, external operating system processes, files, console input, and TCP connections are implemented with custom binary ports so that they have the same interface as the system I/O procedures. The system I/O procedures are not used because they perform synchronous I/O. The custom port buffer size is set to 1024<sup>3</sup> with custom-port-buffer-size. The custom binary port read and write procedures call osi\_read\_port and osi\_write\_port with callbacks that send a message to the calling process, which waits until it receives the message.

**Concern:** Using a port from more than one process at the same time may cause errors including buffer corruption. **Mitigation:** The code is inspected for concurrent use of ports. Port visibility is typically limited to a single process.

For two-way communication ports, we use two custom ports: one exclusively for input, and one exclusively for output. We do not use custom input/output ports for two reasons. First, textual input/output ports created with transcoded-port are not safe to use from two concurrent processes because one transcoding buffer is used for both reading and writing. Second, the input side of a port is commonly used only by a reader process, and the output side of a port is commonly used

 $<sup>^{3}1024</sup>$  was chosen because Chez Scheme uses 1024 for the buffer size of buffered transcoded ports.

only by a writer process. Keeping the input and output sides separate prevents concurrent use. The underlying handle is closed when the output port is closed.

Concern: Failing to close a handle from the operating system interface that is no longer used causes resource leaks. Mitigation: An osi-port guardian and associated finalizer are used to identify and close inaccessible osi-ports using osi\_close\_port. A path-watcher guardian and associated finalizer are used to identify and close inaccessible path watchers. A listener guardian and associated finalizer are used to identify and close inaccessible TCP listeners. In all cases, interrupts are disabled around code that wraps handles and registers objects with guardians in order to prevent the current process from being killed during this critical time.

## 3.4 Programming Interface

## 3.4.1 Process Creation

(spawn thunk) procedure

returns: a process

The spawn procedure creates and returns a new process that executes thunk, a procedure of no arguments. The new process starts with name = #f, sic = 0 (interrupts enabled), winders = (), an exception-state that terminates the process on an unhandled exception, an empty inbox, precedence = 0, flags = 0 (the process is not sleeping and does not trap exits), links = (), monitors = (), and src = #f.

(spawn&link thunk) procedure

returns: a process

Like spawn, the spawn&link procedure creates and returns a new process that executes thunk. In addition, it links the new process to the calling process.

## 3.4.2 Process Registration

(get-registered) procedure

returns: a list of registered process names

The get-registered procedure returns a list of currently registered process names from the registrar.

(register name process) procedure

returns: #t

The register procedure adds  $name \rightarrow process$  to the registrar and sets process.name = name. When a registered process exits, its registration is removed. If name is not a symbol, exception #(bad-arg register name) is raised. If process is not a process, exception #(bad-arg register process) is raised. If process is dead, exception #(process-dead process) is raised. If process is already registered to name n, exception #(process-already-registered n) is raised. If name is already registered to process p, exception #(name-already-registered p) is raised.

(unregister name) procedure

returns: #t

The unregister procedure removes  $name \rightarrow process$  from the registrar and sets process.name =#f. If name is not registered, exception #(bad-arg unregister name) is raised.

(whereis name) procedure

returns: a process | #f

The whereis procedure returns the process associated with *name* or **#f** if *name* is not registered. If *name* is not a symbol, exception **#(bad-arg whereis** *name*) is raised.

## 3.4.3 Process Termination, Links, and Monitors

The catch macro evaluates expressions  $e1\ e2\ldots$  in a dynamic context that traps exceptions. If no exception is raised, the return value is the value of the last expression. If exception reason is raised, #(EXIT reason) is returned.

(demonitor monitor) procedure

returns: #t

The demonitor procedure removes a *monitor* created by the calling process (self) from self.monitors and monitor.target.monitors if present. If monitor is not a monitor with origin = self, exception #(bad-arg demonitor monitor) is raised.

## (demonitor&flush monitor)

procedure

returns: #t

The demonitor&flush procedure provides a convenient way to demonitor and flush any remaining DOWN message from the calling process's inbox. It performs the following operations:

(demonitor monitor)
(receive (until 0 #t)
 [#(DOWN ,@monitor ,\_ ,\_) #t])

### (kill process reason)

procedure

returns: #t

The kill procedure is used to terminate a process.

1. If process is not a process, exception #(bad-arg kill process) is raised.

- 2. If *process* has already exited, nothing happens.
- 3. If reason is kill, process is terminated with reason killed, even if it traps exits.
- 4. If process traps exits, message #(EXIT self reason) is sent to process, where self is the calling process.
- 5. If process does not trap exits and reason is normal, nothing happens.
- 6. Otherwise, process is terminated with reason.

(link process) procedure

returns: #t

The link procedure creates a bi-directional link between the calling process (self) and process. No more than one link can exist between two processes, but it is not an error to call link more than once on the same two processes.

- 1. If process is not a process, exception #(bad-arg link process) is raised.
- 2. If *process* is *self*, nothing happens.
- 3. If *process* has not exited, then if the two processes are already linked, nothing happens; otherwise, *self* is added to *process*.links, and *process* is added to *self*.links.
- 4. Otherwise, process has exited with reason r = process.exception-state.
  - (a) If self traps exits, message #(EXIT process r) is sent to self.
  - (b) If self does not trap exits and reason is normal, nothing happens.
  - (c) Otherwise, self is terminated with reason r.

(monitor process) procedure

returns: a monitor

The monitor procedure creates and returns a new monitor m with origin = the calling process (self) and target = process. Unlike link, monitor can create more than one connection between the same processes. It adds m to self monitors and process monitors. When process exits or has already exited with reason r, the message  $\#(DOWN \ m \ process \ r)$  is sent to self. If process is not a process, exception  $\#(bad-arg \ monitor \ process)$  is raised.

(monitor? x) procedure

returns: a boolean

The monitor? procedure determines whether or not the datum x is a monitor.

(unlink process) procedure

returns: #t

The unlink procedure removes the bi-directional link if present between the calling process (self) and process by removing self from process.links and process from self.links. If process is not a process, exception #(bad-arg unlink process) is raised.

matches
itself
a pair whose car matches $p_1$ and cdr matches $p_2$
a vector of $n$ elements whose elements match $p_1 \ldots p_n$
any datum
any datum and binds a fresh variable to it
any datum equal? to the bound variable
any datum that matches pattern and binds a fresh vari-
able to it
an instance of the tuple type, each field of which is
bound to fresh variable <i>field</i> or matches the correspond-
ing pattern

Figure 3.1: Pattern Grammar

## 3.4.4 Messages and Pattern Matching

The pattern matching syntax of Figure 3.1 provides a concise and expressive way to match data structures and bind variables to parts. The receive, match, and match-let\* macros use this pattern language. The implementation uses two structurally recursive passes over the pattern. The first pass checks the pattern syntax including tuple types and field names and accumulates the list of pattern variables. This list enables it to check for duplicate pattern variables. The second pass emits code that matches the input against the pattern left to right.

```
(match exp (<pattern> [(guard g)] b1 b2 ...)
...)
```

**returns:** the value of the last expression b1 b2 ... for the matched pattern

The match macro evaluates exp once and tests its value v against each pattern and optional guard. Each guard expression g is evaluated in the scope of its associated pattern variables. When g returns #f, v fails to match that clause. For the first pattern and guard that matches v, the expressions b1 b2 ... are evaluated in the scope of its pattern variables. If v fails to match all patterns, exception  $\#(bad-match\ v\ src)$  is raised, where src is the source location of the match clause if available.

See Figure 3.1 for the pattern grammar.

```
(match-let* ([<pattern> [(guard g)] exp] ...) b1 b2 ...)
```

**returns:** the value of the last expression b1 b2 ...

The match-let\* macro evaluates each exp in the order specified and matches its value against its

pattern and guard. The pattern variables of each clause extend the scope of its guard expression g and all subsequent pattern clauses and body expressions  $b1\ b2\ldots$ . The match-let\* macro returns the value of the last body expression. If any pattern fails to match or any g returns #f, exception #(bad-match v src) is raised, where v is the datum that failed to match the pattern or guard at source location src if available.

See Figure 3.1 for the pattern grammar.

returns: the value of the last evaluated expression

The receive macro examines each message m in the calling process's inbox by testing it against each pattern and optional guard. Each guard expression g is evaluated in the scope of its associated pattern variables. When g returns #f, m fails to match that clause. For the first pattern and guard that matches m, m is removed from inbox, and the expressions b1 b2 ... are evaluated in the scope of its pattern variables. If m fails to match all patterns, the examination continues with the next message in inbox. When all messages have been examined, the calling process waits with its  $\operatorname{src}$  field set to the source location of the  $\operatorname{receive}$  macro if available. The process awakens when a new message or the time specified by the optional  $\operatorname{after}$  or  $\operatorname{until}$  clause arrives. If a new message arrives before the timeout, the examination process continues as before. Otherwise, the timeout expressions t1 t2 ... are evaluated.

The optional after clause specifies a timeout in milliseconds from the time at which control enters the receive macro. Similarly, the optional until clause specifies a clock time in milliseconds as measured by erlang:now. In addition, timeout and time can be infinity to indicate no timeout. If t = timeout or time is not a non-negative exact integer or infinity, exception #(timeout-value t src) is returned, where src is the source location of the receive macro if available.

See Figure 3.1 for the pattern grammar.

## (send destination message) procedure

returns: message

The send procedure sends message to a process or registered name, destination. If destination is not a process or registered name, exception #(bad-arg send destination) is raised. If destination has exited, nothing else happens. Otherwise, message is added to the end of destination.inbox. If destination is sleeping, it is awakened. If destination is not blocked for I/O and not on the run queue, it is placed on the run queue with precedence 0.

### 3.4.5 Process Properties

(pps [op])

returns: unspecified

The pps procedure prints information about all processes to textual output port op, which defaults to the current output port. If op is not an output port, exception #(bad-arg pps op) is raised.

(process? x) procedure

returns: a boolean

The process? procedure determines whether or not the datum x is a process.

(process-id [process])

procedure

returns: the process id

The process-id procedure returns *process*.id, where *process* defaults to self. If *process* is not a process, exception #(bad-arg process-id *process*) is raised.

process-trap-exit

parameter

value: boolean

The process-trap-exit parameter specifies whether or not the calling process traps exit signals as messages. Processes start with this parameter set to #f.

self syntax

 ${\bf returns:}$  the current process

The self macro uses identifier-syntax to expand into code that retrieves the global self variable's top-level value. The global variable cannot be used directly because library bindings are immutable.

#### 3.4.6 Miscellaneous

(add-finalizer finalizer)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The add-finalizer procedure adds finalizer to the global list of finalizers. finalizer is a procedure of no arguments that runs in the finalizer process after garbage collections. If finalizer is not a procedure, exception #(bad-arg add-finalizer finalizer) is raised.

(bad-arg who arg) procedure

returns: never

The bad-arg procedure raises exception #(bad-arg who arg).

(complete-io process)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The complete-io procedure is used in callback functions to unblock a *process* from a call to wait-for-io. If *process* is not a process, exception #(bad-arg complete-io *process*) is raised.

(console-event-handler event)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The console-event-handler procedure prints an *event* to the console. It is used when the event manager is not available. It disables interrupts so that it can be called from multiple processes safely. The output is designed to be machine readable. The output looks like this:

Date: Fri Aug 06 11:54:59 2010

Timestamp: 1281110099144

 ${\tt Event} : \ event$ 

The date is the local time from the date-and-time procedure, the timestamp is the clock time from erlang:now, and *event* is printed as with write.

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{(dbg)} \\ \text{(dbg } id) \\ \text{(dbg } base \ proc) \end{array}$ 

returns: see below

The dbg procedure is used to debug processes that exit with a continuation condition.

(dbg) prints to the current output port the process id and exception message for each process that exited with a continuation condition.

(dbg id) enters the interactive debugger using the exception state of process id. If process id does not exist or did not exit with a continuation condition, the following message is printed: "Nothing to debug."

(dbg base proc) folds over the processes that exited with a continuation condition and calls proc with the process id, process exception state, and the accumulator value (initially base). It returns the final accumulator value.

(dump-stack [op]) procedure
(dump-stack k op max-depth)
returns: unspecified

The dump-stack procedure prints information about the stack up to max-depth to textual output port op, which defaults to the current output port.

k is a continuation, and max-depth is either the symbol default or a positive fixnum. The default max-depth is 10.

 $(dump-stack \ op) \ calls \ (call/cc \ (lambda \ (k) \ (dump-stack \ k \ op \ 'default))).$ 

(erlang:now) procedure

returns: the current clock time in milliseconds

The erlang:now procedure calls osi\_get\_time to return the number of milliseconds in UTC since the UNIX epoch January 1, 1970.

(make-process-parameter initial [filter]) procedure returns: a process parameter procedure

The make-process-parameter procedure creates a parameter procedure p that provides perprocess, mutable storage using a weak eq-hashtable mapping processes to values. Calling p with no arguments returns the current value of the parameter for the calling process, and calling p with one argument sets the value of the parameter for the calling process. The filter, if present, is a

procedure of one argument that is applied to the *initial* and all subsequent values. If *filter* is not a procedure, exception #(bad-arg make-process-parameter *filter*) is raised.

The following system parameters are not process safe and have been redefined to use make-process-parameter: custom-port-buffer-size, exit-handler, pretty-initial-indent, pretty-line-length, pretty-maximum-lines, pretty-one-line-limit, pretty-standard-indent, print-brackets, print-char-name, print-gensym, print-graph, print-length, print-level, print-precision, print-radix, print-record, print-unicode, print-vector-length, reset-handler, and waiter-prompt-and-read.

```
(on-exit finally b1 b2 ...)
expands to:
(dynamic-wind
  void
  (lambda () b1 b2 ...)
  (lambda () finally))
```

The on-exit macro executes the body expressions b1 b2 ... in a dynamic context that executes the finally expression whenever control leaves the body.

```
(profile-me) procedure
```

returns: unspecified

The profile-me procedure does nothing but provide a place-holder for the system profiler to count the call site. When profiling is turned off, (profile-me) expands to (void), and the system optimizer eliminates it.

```
(wait-for-io name) procedure returns: unspecified
```

The wait-for-io procedure blocks the current process for I/O. The *name* string indicates the target of the I/O operation. To unblock the process, call complete-io from a callback function.

### **3.4.7** Tuples

For users of the concurrency model, a *tuple* is a container of named, immutable fields implemented as a vector whose first element is the tuple name and remaining elements are the fields. Each tuple definition is a macro that provides all tuple operations using field names only, not field indices. The macro makes it easy to copy a tuple without having to specify the fields that don't change. We decided not to use the Scheme record facility because it does not provide name-based constructors, copy operators, or convenient serialization.

```
(define-tuple name field ...) syntax expands to: a macro definition of name described below
```

The define-tuple macro defines a macro for creating, copying, identifying, and accessing tuple type *name*. *name* and *field* ... must be identifiers. No two field names can be the same. The following field names are reserved: make, copy, copy\*, and is?.

(name make [field value] ...)

syntax

**returns:** a new instance of tuple type name with  $field = value \dots$ 

The make form creates a new instance of the tuple type name. field bindings may appear in any order. All fields from the tuple definition must be specified.

(name field instance)

syntax

returns: instance.field

The field accessor form retrieves the value of the specified *field* of *instance*. If r = instance is not a tuple of type name, exception #(bad-tuple  $name \ r \ src$ ) is raised, where src is the source location of the field accessor form if available.

(name field) syntax

returns: a procedure that, given instance, returns instance. field

The (name field) form expands to (lambda (instance) (name field instance)).

```
(name open instance [prefix] (field ...))
```

syntax

**expands to:** definitions for *field* ... or *prefixfield* ... described below

The open form defines identifier syntax for each specified field so that a reference to field expands to (name field r) where r is the value of instance. If r is not a tuple of type name, exception #(bad-tuple name r src) is raised, where src is the source location of the open form if avalable. The open form is equivalent to the following, except that it checks the tuple type only once: (begin

```
(define instance instance)
(define-syntax field (identifier-syntax (name field instance)))
...)
```

The open form introduces definitions only for fields listed explicitly in (field ...). If the optional prefix identifier is supplied, open produces a definition for prefixfield rather than field for each field specified.

```
(name copy instance [field value] ...)
```

syntax

**returns:** a new instance of tuple type name with  $field = value \dots$  and remaining fields copied from instance

The copy form creates a copy of *instance* except that each specified *field* is set to the associated value. If r = instance is not a tuple of type name, exception #(bad-tuple  $name \ r \ src$ ) is raised, where src is the source location of the copy form if avalable. *field* bindings may appear in any order.

```
(name copy* instance [field value] ...)
```

syntax

**returns:** a new instance of tuple type name with  $field = value \dots$  and remaining fields copied from instance

The copy\* form is like copy except that, within the value expressions, each specified field is bound to an identifier macro that returns the value of instance.field. If r = instance is not a tuple of type name, exception #(bad-tuple name r src) is raised, where src is the source location of the copy\* form if avalable. The copy\* form is equivalent to the following, except that it checks the tuple type only once:

```
(let ([instance instance])
  (name open instance (field ...))
  (name copy instance [field value] ...))
```

(name is? x) syntax

returns: a boolean

The is? form determines whether or not the datum x is an instance of tuple type name.

## 3.4.8 I/O

(binary->utf8 bp) procedure

**returns:** a transcoded textual port wrapping bp

The binary->utf8 procedure takes a binary port bp and returns a textual port wrapping bp using transcoded-port and (make-utf8-transcoder). The original port bp is marked closed so that it cannot be used except through the associated textual port.

## (close-osi-port port)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The close-osi-port procedure closes osi-port port using osi\_close\_port. If port has already been closed, close-osi-port does nothing.

## (close-path-watcher watcher)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The close-path-watcher procedure uses osi\_close\_path\_watcher to close the given path watcher. If watcher is not a path watcher, exception #(bad-arg close-path-watcher watcher) is raised. If watcher has already been closed, close-path-watcher does nothing.

## (close-tcp-listener listener)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The close-tcp-listener procedure closes a TCP listener using osi\_close\_tcp\_listener. If listener is not a TCP listener, exception #(bad-arg close-tcp-listener listener) is raised. If listener has already been closed, close-tcp-listener does nothing.

#### (connect-tcp hostname port-spec)

procedure

returns: two values: a binary input port and a binary output port

The connect-tcp procedure calls osi\_connect\_tcp and blocks while the TCP connection to host-name on port-spec is established or fails to be established. The port-spec may be a port number or a string service name such as "http". The procedure returns a custom binary input port that reads from the new connection and a custom binary output port that writes to the new connection. These ports do not track or report position, and the underlying osi-ports are registered with the osi-port guardian.

If osi\_connect\_tcp fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error "[hostname]:port-spec" who errno) is raised. If hostname is not a string, exception #(bad-arg connect-tcp hostname) is raised. If port-spec is not a fixnum between 0 and 65535 inclusive or a string, exception #(bad-arg connect-tcp port-spec) is raised.

(directory? path) procedure

returns: a boolean

The directory? procedure calls (get-stat path) to determine whether or not path is a directory.

(force-close-output-port op)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The force-close-output-port procedure is used to close a custom output port, even if it has unflushed output that would otherwise cause it to fail to close. If op is not already closed, force-close-output-port tries to close it with (close-output-port op). If it fails with exception #(io-error \_ \_ \_), the output buffer is cleared with (clear-output-port op), and (close-output-port op) is called again.

#### (get-datum/annotations-all ip sfd bfp)

procedure

returns: a list of annotated objects

The get-datum/annotations-all procedure takes a textual input port ip, a source-file descriptor sfd, and an exact nonnegative integer bfp representing the character position of the next character to be read from ip. The procedure returns a list of the annotated objects, in order, obtained by repeatedly calling get-datum/annotations with the advancing bfp, until ip reaches the end of file.

#### (get-file-size port)

procedure

**returns:** the number of bytes in the file associated with osi-port port

The get-file-size procedure calls osi\_get\_file\_size to return the number of bytes in the file associated with osi-port port.

If osi\_get\_file\_size fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error filename who errno) is raised.

#### (get-real-path path)

procedure

returns: the canonicalized absolute pathname of path

The get-real-path procedure calls osi\_get\_real\_path and returns the canonicalized absolute pathname of path.

### (get-source-offset ip)

procedure

returns: an exact nonnegative integer

The get-source-offset procedure takes a binary input port *ip* that supports port-position, skips over the #! *interpreter-directive* line, if any, and returns the resulting port-position.

(get-stat path [follow?])

procedure

returns: a <stat> tuple

The get-stat procedure calls osi\_get\_stat and returns the <stat> tuple for path, following a symbolic link unless follow? is #f. If osi\_get\_stat fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error path who errno) is raised.

(hook-console-input)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The hook-console-input procedure replaces the system console input port, which uses synchronous I/O, with a custom textual input port that uses asynchronous I/O. It builds a custom binary input port with osi\_get\_stdin, wraps it with binary->utf8, and sets the result as the console-input-port, current-input-port, and the system internal \$console-input-port. It does nothing after it has been called once.

(io-error name who errno)

procedure

returns: never

The io-error procedure raises exception #(io-error name who errno). The string name identifies the port. The symbol who specifies the procedure that raised an error, and the number errno specifies the error code. The read-osi-port procedure raises this exception with who=osi\_read\_port, and the write-osi-port procedure raises it with who=osi\_write\_port.

(list-directory path)

procedure

returns: ((name . type) ...)

The list-directory procedure calls osi\_list\_directory and returns ((name . type) ...), the list of directory entries of path. It does not include "." and "..". name is the string name of the directory entry, and type is one of the following constants:

DIRENT\_UNKNOWN DIRENT\_FILE DIRENT\_DIR DIRENT\_LINK DIRENT\_FIFO DIRENT\_SOCKET DIRENT\_CHAR DIRENT\_BLOCK

If osi\_list\_directory fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error path who errno) is raised.

(listen-tcp address port-number process)

procedure

returns: a TCP listener

The listen-tcp procedure calls osi\_listen\_tcp to create a TCP listener on the given address and port-number and returns a TCP listener that is registered with the listener guardian.

For each accepted connection, the message #(accept-tcp listener ip op) is sent to process, where ip is the binary input port and op is the binary output port.

For each failed connection, the message #(accept-tcp-failed *listener who errno*) is sent to process, where who and errno specify the error.

The address is a dotted quad IPv4 address or an IPv6 address. Use "::" to listen on all IPv4 and IPv6 interfaces. Use "0.0.0.0" to listen on all IPv4 interfaces. Otherwise, it listens on the given address only. If address is not a string, exception #(bad-arg listen-tcp address) is raised.

If *port-number* is zero, the operating system will choose an available port number, which can be queried with listener-port-number. If *port-number* is not a fixnum between 0 and 65535 inclusive, exception #(bad-arg listen-tcp *port-number*) is raised.

If osi\_listen\_tcp fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(listen-tcp-failed address port-number who errno) is raised.

#### (listener-address listener)

procedure

returns: the address field of listener

The listener-address procedure returns the address of the given TCP listener.

#### (listener-port-number listener)

procedure

returns: the port-number field of listener

The listener-port-number procedure returns the port-number of the given TCP listener.

(listener? x) procedure

returns: a boolean

The listener? procedure determines whether or not the datum x is a TCP listener.

## (make-directory path [mode])

procedure

returns: unspecified

The make-directory procedure calls osi\_make\_directory to make directory path with mode, which defaults to #o777.

If osi\_make\_directory fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error path who errno) is raised.

### (make-directory-path path [mode])

procedure

returns: path

The make-directory-path procedure creates directories as needed for the file path using mode, which defaults to #o777. It returns path.

#### (make-utf8-transcoder)

procedure

returns: a UTF-8 transcoder

The make-utf8-transcoder procedure creates a UTF-8 transcoder with end-of-line style none and error-handling mode replace.

#### (open-file name flags mode type)

procedure

returns: a custom file port

The open-file procedure creates a custom file port by calling (open-file-port name flags mode). The custom port supports both getting and setting the file position, except when type=append. The particular type of custom port returned is determined by type:

• binary-input: a binary input port

- binary-output: a binary output port
- input: a textual input port wrapping a binary input port with binary->utf8
- output: a textual output port wrapping a binary output port with binary->utf8
- append: a textual output port wrapping a binary output port with binary->utf8. Each write appends to the file by specifying position -1.

If type is any other value, exception #(bad-arg open-file type) is raised.

## (open-file-port name flags mode)

procedure

returns: an osi-port

The open-file-port procedure creates an osi-port by calling osi\_open\_file with name, flags, and mode. The osi-port is registered with the osi-port guardian.

The following constants are defined for *flags*:

O_APPEND	O_CREAT	O_DIRECT	O_DIRECTORY	O_DSYNC	O_EXCL
O_EXLOCK	O_NOATIME	O_NOCTTY	O_NOFOLLOW	O_NONBLOCK	O_RANDOM
O_RDONLY	O_RDWR	O_SEQUENTIAL	O_SHORT_LIVED	O_SYMLINK	O_SYNC
O TEMPORARY	O TRUNC	O WRONLY			

The following constants are defined for *mode*:

```
S_IFMT S_IFIFO S_IFCHR S_IFDIR S_IFBLK S_IFREG S_IFLNK S_IFSOCK
```

If osi\_open\_file fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error name who errno) is raised.

#### (open-file-to-append name)

procedure

returns: a textual file port

The open-file-to-append procedure calls

(open-file name (+ O\_WRONLY O\_CREAT O\_APPEND) #o777 'append).

## (open-file-to-read name)

procedure

returns: a textual file port

The open-file-to-read procedure calls (open-file name O\_RDONLY O 'input).

#### (open-file-to-replace name)

procedure

returns: a textual file port

The open-file-to-replace procedure calls

(open-file name (+ O\_WRONLY O\_CREAT O\_TRUNC) #o777 'output).

## (open-file-to-write name)

procedure

returns: a custom file port

The  ${\tt open-file-to-write}$  procedure calls

(open-file name (+ O\_WRONLY O\_CREAT O\_EXCL) #o777 'output).

#### (open-utf8-bytevector bv)

procedure

returns: a transcoded textual input port wrapping bv

The open-utf8-bytevector procedure calls (binary->utf8 (open-bytevector-input-port bv)).

(osi-port-count)

procedure

returns: the number of open osi-ports

The osi-port-count procedure returns the number of open osi-ports.

(path-combine  $path_1$   $path_2$  ...)

procedure

 ${\bf returns:}\,$  the string combining the paths

The path-combine procedure appends one or more paths, inserting the directory-separator character between each pair of paths as needed.

(path-watcher-count)

procedure

returns: the number of open path watchers

The path-watcher-count procedure returns the number of open path watchers.

(path-watcher-path watcher)

procedure

returns: the path field of watcher

The path-watcher-path procedure returns the path of the given path watcher.

(path-watcher? x)

procedure

returns: a boolean

The path-watcher? procedure determines whether or not the datum x is a path watcher.

(print-osi-ports [op])

procedure

returns: unspecified

The print-osi-ports procedure prints information about all open osi-ports to textual output port op, which defaults to the current output port.

(print-path-watchers [op])

procedure

returns: unspecified

The print-path-watchers procedure prints information about all open path watchers to textual output port *op*, which defaults to the current output port.

(print-tcp-listeners [op])

procedure

returns: unspecified

The print-tcp-listeners procedure prints information about all open TCP listeners to textual output port op, which defaults to the current output port.

(read-bytevector name contents)

procedure

returns: a list of annotations

The read-bytevector procedure takes a filename name and contents bytevector and returns a list of annotations read using get-datum/annotations from the contents bytevector transcoded with (make-utf8-transcoder).

(read-file name) procedure

**returns:** a bytevector with the contents of *name* 

The read-file procedure calls (open-file-port name O\_RDONLY 0) to open the file name and returns the contents as a bytevector.

(read-osi-port port by start n fp)

procedure

returns: the number of bytes read

The read-osi-port procedure calls osi\_read\_port with the handle from the given osi-port port, bytevector buffer bv, starting 0-based buffer index start, maximum number of bytes to read n, and starting 0-based file position fp. To specify the current position, use fp=-1. The calling process blocks for the I/O to complete. If the read fails with error pair ( $who \cdot errno$ ), exception #(io-error  $name \ who \ errno$ ) is raised, where name is the name of port. Otherwise, the number of bytes read is returned. Error code UV\_EOF (end of file) is not considered an error, and 0 is returned.

(regular-file? path)

procedure

returns: a boolean

The regular-file? procedure calls (get-stat path) to determine whether or not path is a regular file.

(remove-directory path)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The remove-directory procedure calls osi\_remove\_directory to remove directory path.

If osi\_remove\_directory fails with error pair (who . erron), exception #(io-error path who erron) is raised.

(remove-file path)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The remove-file procedure calls osi\_unlink to remove file path.

If osi\_unlink fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error path who errno) is raised.

(rename-path path new-path)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The rename-path procedure calls osi\_rename to rename path to new-path.

If osi\_rename fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error path who errno) is raised.

(set-file-mode path mode)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The set-file-mode procedure calls osi\_chmod to set the file mode of path to mode.

If osi\_chmod fails with error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error path who errno) is raised.

#### (spawn-os-process path args process)

procedure

**returns:** four values: a binary output port *to-stdin*, a binary input port *from-stdout*, a binary input port *from-stderr*, and an integer process identifier *os-pid* 

The spawn-os-process procedure calls osi\_spawn to spawn an operating system process with the string path and list of string-valued args. It returns a custom binary output port to-stdin that writes to the standard input of the process, custom binary input ports from-stdout and from-stderr that read from the standard output and standard error of the process, respectively, and a process identifier os-pid. These ports do not track or report position, and the underlying osi-ports are registered with the osi-port guardian.

When the spawned process terminates, #(process-terminated os-pid exit-status term-signal) is sent to process.

If osi\_spawn returns error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error path who errno) is raised.

#### (stat-directory? x)

procedure

returns: a boolean

The stat-directory? procedure determines whether or not the datum x is a <stat> tuple for a directory.

#### (stat-regular-file? x)

procedure

returns: a boolean

The stat-regular-file? procedure determines whether or not the datum x is a <stat> tuple for a regular file.

#### (tcp-listener-count)

procedure

returns: the number of open TCP listeners

The tcp-listener-count procedure returns the number of open TCP listeners.

#### (watch-path path process)

procedure

returns: a path watcher

The watch-path procedure calls osi\_watch\_path to track changes to path and returns a path watcher that is registered with the path-watcher guardian.

Every time a change is detected, #(path-changed path filename events) is sent to process, where events is 1 for rename, 2 for change, and 3 for rename and change. If the watcher encounters an error, #(path-watcher-failed path errno) is sent to process.

If osi\_watch\_path returns error pair (who . errno), exception #(io-error path who errno) is raised.

#### (with-sfd-source-offset name handler)

procedure

returns: see below

The with-sfd-source-offset procedure takes a filename name and returns the result of calling the procedure handler with three arguments: ip, a textual port transcoded with (make-utf8-transcoder), sfd, a source-file descriptor that refers to name, and source-offset, the value returned by get-source-offset. Before returning, with-sfd-source-offset closes the textual port.

(write-osi-port port by start n fp)

procedure

returns: the number of bytes written

The write-osi-port procedure calls osi\_write\_port with the handle from the given osi-port port, bytevector buffer bv, starting 0-based buffer index start, maximum number of bytes to write n, and starting 0-based file position fp. To specify the current position, use fp=-1. The calling process blocks for the I/O to complete. If the write fails with error pair ( $who \cdot errno$ ), exception #(io-error  $name \ who \ errno$ ) is raised, where name is the name of port. Otherwise, the number of bytes written is returned.

#### 3.4.9 Queues

A queue is represented as a pair of lists, (in . out). The out list contains the first elements of the queue, and the in list contains the last elements of the queue in reverse. This representation allows for O(1) amortized insertion and removal times. The implementation is based on the Erlang queue module [11].

(queue:add x q)

procedure

**returns:** a queue that adds x to the rear of q

(queue:add-front x q)

procedure

**returns:** a queue that adds x to the front of q

(queue:drop q)

procedure

**returns:** a queue without the first element of q

queue: empty

syntax

returns: the empty queue

(queue:empty? q)

procedure

**returns:** #t if q is a queue, #f otherwise

(queue:get q)

procedure

**returns:** the first element of q

#### 3.4.10 Hash Tables

The implementation of functional hash tables is based on the Erlang dict module [9, 14].

(ht:delete ht key) procedure

**returns:** a hash table formed by dropping any association of key from ht

(ht:fold ht f init) procedure

returns: see below

The ht:fold procedure accumulates a value by applying f to each key/value association in ht and the accumulator, which is initially init. It can be defined recursively as follows, where n is the size of ht, and the result of ht:fold is  $F_n$ :

$$F_0 = init$$
  
 $F_i = (f \ key_i \ val_i \ F_{i-1}) \ \text{for} \ 1 \le i \le n$ 

(ht:is? x) procedure

**returns:** #t if x is a hash table, #f otherwise

(ht:keys ht) procedure

**returns:** a list of the keys of ht

(ht:make hash-key equal-key? valid-key?) procedure

returns: an empty hash table

The ht:make procedure returns an empty hash table.

The *hash-key* procedure takes a key and returns an exact integer. It must return the same integer for equivalent keys.

The equal-key? procedure takes two keys and returns a true value if they are equivalent and #f otherwise.

The valid-key? procedure takes a datum and returns a true value if it a valid key and #f otherwise.

(ht:ref ht key default) procedure

**returns:** the value associated with key in ht, default if none

(ht:set ht key val) procedure

**returns:** a hash table formed by associating key with val in ht

(ht:size ht) procedure

returns: the number of entries in ht

#### 3.4.11 Error Strings

#### current-exit-reason->english parameter

value: a procedure of one argument that returns an English string

The current-exit-reason->english parameter specifies the conversion procedure used by exit-reason->english. It defaults to swish-exit-reason->english.

#### (exit-reason->english x)

procedure

returns: a string in U.S. English

The exit-reason->english procedure converts an exit reason into an English string using the procedure stored in parameter current-exit-reason->english.

#### (swish-exit-reason->english x)

procedure

returns: a string in U.S. English

The swish-exit-reason->english procedure converts an exit reason from Swish into an English string.

#### 3.4.12String Utilities

The string utilities below are found in the (swish string-utils) library. For regular expression support, see the (swish pregexp) library described in [22].

(ends-with? s p)

procedure

returns: a boolean

The ends-with? procedure determines whether or not the string s ends with string p using casesensitive comparisons.

(ends-with-ci? s p)

procedure

returns: a boolean

The ends-with-ci? procedure determines whether or not the string s ends with string p using case-insensitive comparisons.

(format-rfc2822 d)

procedure

returns: a string like "Thu, 28 Jul 2016 17:20:11 -0400"

The format-rfc2822 procedure returns a string representation of the date object d in the form specified in Section 3.3 of RFC 2822 [21].

(join *ls separator* [*last-separator*])

procedure

returns: a string

The join procedure returns the string formed by displaying each of the elements of list ls separated by displaying separator. When last-separator is specified, it is used as the last separator.

(split str separator)

procedure

returns: a list of strings

The split procedure divides the str string by the separator character into a list of strings, none of which contain separator.

(split-n str separator n)

procedure

**returns:** a list of no more than n strings

The split-n procedure divides the str string by the separator character into a list of at most n strings. The last string may contain separator.

(starts-with? s p) procedure

returns: a boolean

The starts-with? procedure determines whether or not the string s starts with string p using case-sensitive comparisons.

(starts-with-ci? s p) procedure

returns: a boolean

The starts-with-ci? procedure determines whether or not the string s starts with string p using case-insensitive comparisons.

(symbol-append . ls) procedure

returns: a symbol

The symbol-append procedure returns the symbol formed by appending the symbols passed as arguments.

## Chapter 4

## Generic Server

The generic server provides an "empty" server, that is, a framework from which instances of servers can be built.

—Joe Armstrong [1]

#### 4.1 Introduction

In a concurrent system, many processes need to access a shared resource or sequentially manipulate the state of the system. This is generally modeled using a client/server design pattern. To help developers build robust servers, a generic server (gen-server) implementation inspired by Erlang's Open Telecom Platform is provided.

The principles of the generic server can be found in Joe Armstrong's thesis [1] or *Programming Erlang—Software for a Concurrent World* [2]. Documentation for Erlang's gen\_server is available online [10]. Source code for the Erlang Open Telecom Platform can be found online [8]. The source code for gen\_server is part of stdlib and can be found in /lib/stdlib/src/gen\_server.erl.

## 4.2 Theory of Operation

A gen-server provides a consistent mechanism for programmers to create a process which manages state, timeout conditions, and failure conditions using functional programming techniques. A programmer uses gen-server:start&link and implements the callback API to instantiate particular behavior.

A generic server starts a new process, registers it as a named process, and invokes the init callback procedure while blocking the calling process.

Clients can then send messages to a server using the synchronous gen-server:call, the asynchronous gen-server:cast, or the raw send procedure. The gen-server framework will automatically process messages and dispatch them to handle-call, handle-cast, and handle-info respectively.

The gen-server framework code automatically interprets a stop return value from the callback API or an EXIT message from the process which created it as a termination request and calls terminate.

Unless the termination reason is either normal or shutdown, generic servers use event-mgr:notify to report the termination.

Erlang's gen\_server supports timeouts during gen\_server:start and gen\_server:start&link. In order to simplify the startup code, we have not implemented this feature. Timeouts while running the init callback may cause resources to be stranded until the garbage collector can clean them up. Timeouts during initialization should be considered carefully.

### 4.3 Programming Interface

arg: any Scheme datum

```
(gen-server:start&link name arg ...)
returns: #(ok pid) | #(error reason) | ignore
name: a symbol for a registered server or #f for an anonymous server
```

gen-server:start&link spawns the server process, links to the calling process, registers the server process as *name*, and calls (init *arg* ...) within that process. To ensure a synchronized startup procedure, gen-server:start&link does not return until init has returned.

This macro uses the current scope to capture the callback functions init, handle-call, handle-cast, handle-info, and terminate.

Attempting to register a name that already exists results in #(error #(name-already-registered pid)), where pid is the existing process.

The return value of gen-server:start&link is propagated from the init callback.

An init which returns #(ok state [timeout]) will yield #(ok pid) where pid is the newly created process.

An init which returns #(stop reason) or exits with reason will terminate the process and yield #(error reason).

An init which returns ignore will terminate the process and yield ignore. This value is useful to inform a supervisor that the init procedure has determined that this server is not necessary for the system to operate.

An init which returns *other* values will terminate the process and yield #(error #(bad-return-value *other*)).

```
(gen-server:start name arg ...) syntax returns: #(ok pid) | #(error error) | ignore
```

gen-server:start behaves the same as start&link except that it does not link to the calling process.

```
(gen-server:call server request [timeout]) procedure
returns: reply
server: process or registered name
request: any Scheme datum
```

timeout: non-negative exact integer in milliseconds or infinity, defaults to 5000

gen-server: call sends a synchronous request to server and waits for a reply. The server processes the request using handle-call.

Failure to receive a reply causes the calling process to exit with reason #(timeout #(gen-server call (server request))) if no timeout is specified, or #(timeout #(gen-server call (server request timeout))) if a timeout is specified. If the caller catches the failure and continues running, the caller must be prepared for a possible late reply from the server.

gen-server:call exits if the server terminates while the client is waiting for a reply. When that happens, the client exits for the same reason as the server.

(gen-server:cast server request) procedure

returns: ok

server: process or registered name

request: any Scheme datum

gen-server:cast sends an asynchronous request to a server and returns ok immediately. When using gen-server:cast a client does not expect failures in the server to cause failures in the client; therefore, this procedure ignores all failures. The server will process the request using handle-cast.

(gen-server:reply client reply) procedure

returns: ok

client: a from argument provided to the handle-call callback

reply: any Scheme datum

gen-server:reply can be used by a server to explicitly send a *reply* to a *client* that called gen-server:call.

In some situations, a server cannot reply immediately to a client. In such cases, the *from* argument inside handle-call is stored, and no-reply is returned. Later, gen-server:reply can be called using that *from* value as *client*. The *reply* is the return value of the gen-server:call in this case.

(gen-server:debug server server-options client-options) procedure

returns: ok

 $server: \ process \ or \ registered \ name$   $server-options: \ ([\texttt{message}] \ [\texttt{state}] \ [\texttt{reply}]) \ | \ \#\texttt{f}$ 

client-options: ([message] [reply]) | #f

gen-server:debug sets the debugging mode of server. The server-options argument specifies the logging of calls in the server. When server-options is #f, server logging is turned off. Otherwise, server logging is turned on, and server-options is a list of symbols specifying the level of detail. In logging mode, the server sends a <gen-server-debug> event for each call to handle-call, handle-cast, and handle-info. The message field is populated when message is in server-options, the state field is populated when state is in server-options, and the reply field is populated when reply is in server-options.

Similarly, the *client-options* argument specifies the logging of client calls to *server* with genserver:call. When *client-options* is #f, client logging is turned off. Otherwise, client logging is turned on, and *client-options* is a list of symbols specifying the level of detail. In logging mode, gen-server:call sends a <gen-server-debug> event. The *message* field is populated when message is in *client-options*, and the *reply* field is populated when reply is in *client-options*.

This form defines a tuple type using (define-tuple name field ...) and defines a new syntactic form \$state. \$state provides a succinct syntax for the state variable.

\$state transforms (\$state op arg ...) to (name op state arg ...) where state is a variable in the same scope as \$state.

Given this definition:

```
(define-state-tuple <my-state> x y z)
```

The following code is equivalent:

```
(<my-state> copy state [x 2]) ($state copy [x 2])
(<my-state> x state) ($state x)
(<my-state> y state) ($state y)
(<my-state> z state) ($state z)
```

There is no equivalent for constructing a state tuple because constructing a tuple does not require the state variable. The (<my-state> make ...) syntax must be used.

#### 4.4 Published Events

All generic servers send the event manager the following event:

#### <gen-server-terminating>

event

```
timestamp: the time the event occured
    name: the name of the server
last-message: the last message received by the server
    state: the last state passed into terminate
    reason: the reason for termination
```

This event is fired after a successful call to terminate unless the reason for termination is normal or shutdown. If the terminate procedure exits with a new reason, the event contains the new reason.

#### <gen-server-debug>

```
timestamp: the time the operation started
  duration: the duration of the operation in milliseconds
  type: 1 for handle-call, 2 for handle-cast, 3 for handle-info, 4 for terminate, 5 for a successful gen-server:call, and 6 for a failed gen-server:call
  client: the client process or #f
  server: the server process
  message: the message sent to the server or #f
  state: the state of the server when it received the message or #f
  reply: the server's reply or #f
```

#### 4.5 Callback Interface

A programmer implements the callback interface to define a particular server's behavior. All callback functions are called from within the server process.

The callback functions for gen-server processes are supposed to be *well-behaved functions*, i.e., functions that work correctly. The generation of an exception in a well-behaved function is interpreted as a failure [1].

When a callback function exits with a reason, terminate is called and the server exits.

When a callback function returns an unexpected *value*, terminate is called with the reason #(bad-return-value *value*), and the server exits.

A callback may specify a *timeout* as a relative time in milliseconds up to one day, an absolute time in milliseconds (e.g., from erlang:now), or infinity. The default *timeout* is infinity. If the time period expires before another message is received, then a timeout message will be processed by handle-info.

Messages sent using send, including #(EXIT pid reason) and #(DOWN monitor pid reason), are processed by handle-info.

The generic server framework will automatically interpret an EXIT message from the process which spawned it as a reason for termination. terminate will be called directly. handle-info will not be called. The server must use (process-trap-exit #t) to receive EXIT messages.

```
returns: #(ok state [timeout]) | #(stop reason) | ignore

arg ...: the arg ... provided to gen-server:start&link or gen-server:start
    state: any Scheme datum
timeout: relative time in milliseconds up to one day, absolute time in milliseconds
        (e.g., from erlang:now), or infinity (default)
reason: any Scheme datum
```

(init arg ...) is called from a new server process and must complete before gen-server:start&link or gen-server:start returns.

A successful init returns #(ok state [timeout]). The state is then maintained functionally by the generic server framework.

init may specify that server initialization failed by returning #(stop reason). The server will then fail to start using this reason. terminate will not be called as the server has not properly started.

init may specify ignore. The server will then exit with reason normal, and gen-server:start&link will return ignore. This is used to inform a supervisor that the server is not necessary for the system to operate. terminate will not be called.

```
(handle-call request from state) procedure returns: #(reply reply state [timeout]) | #(no-reply state [timeout]) | #(stop reason [reply] state)
```

handle-call is responsible for processing a client request generated by gen-server:call.

handle-call may return #(reply reply state [timeout]) to indicate that reply is to be returned from gen-server:call to the caller. The server state will become state.

handle-call may return #(no-reply state [timeout]) to continue operation and to indicate that the caller of gen-server:call will continue to wait for a reply. The server state will become state. The server will need to use gen-server:reply and from to reply to the client.

handle-call may return #(stop reason [reply] state) to set a new state, then terminate the server with the given reason. If the optional reply is specified, it will be the return value of genserver:call; otherwise, gen-server:call will exit with reason.

reply is any Scheme datum.

state is any Scheme datum.

reason is any Scheme datum.

```
(handle-cast request state)
```

procedure

```
returns: #(no-reply state [timeout]) | #(stop reason state)
request: the request provided to gen-server:cast
    state: server state
timeout: relative time in milliseconds up to one day, absolute time in milliseconds
        (e.g., from erlang:now), or infinity (default)
reason: any Scheme datum
```

handle-cast is responsible for processing a client request generated by gen-server:cast.

handle-cast may return #(no-reply state [timeout]) to continue operation. The server state will become state.

handle-cast may return #(stop reason state) to terminate the server with the given reason. The server state will become state.

handle-info is responsible for processing timeouts and miscellaneous messages sent to the server via send.

handle-info may return #(no-reply state [timeout]) to continue operation. The server state will become state.

handle-info may return #(stop reason state) to terminate the server with the given reason. The server state will become state.

#### (terminate reason state) procedure

returns: ignored

reason: shutdown reason state: server state

terminate is called when the server is about to terminate. It is responsible for cleaning up any resources that the server allocated. When it returns, the server exits for the given reason.

reason can be any reason specified by a stop return value #(stop ...). When a supervision tree is terminating, reason will be shutdown.

The return value of terminate is ignored. Unless the termination reason is either normal or shutdown, the generic server framework uses event-mgr:notify to report the termination. The server then terminates for that reason.

If terminate exits with reason, then that reason is logged, and the server terminates with reason.

## Chapter 5

# Event Manager

#### 5.1 Introduction

The event manager (event-mgr) is a gen-server that provides a single dispatcher for events within the system. It buffers events and dispatches them to the log handler and a collection of other event handlers. If the log handler fails, the event manager logs events directly to the console.

### 5.2 Theory of Operation

The event manager is a singleton process through which all events in the system are routed. Any component may notify the event manager that something has occurred by using event-mgr:notify. This model is illustrated in Figure 5.1.

The event manager is a registered process named event-mgr.

The event manager is created as part of the application's supervision hierarchy. It buffers incoming events during startup until event-mgr:flush-buffer is called. The buffered events are then sent to the current event handlers and the log handler. This provides the ability to log the startup details of processes, including the event manager itself.

The event handlers should not perform blocking operations, because they block the entire event manager.

If the log handler or its associated process fails, the event manager logs events to the console. If another event handler fails with some reason, the associated process is killed with the same reason. When the process associated with a handler terminates, the event manager removes it from the list.

#### state

<event-mgr-state>

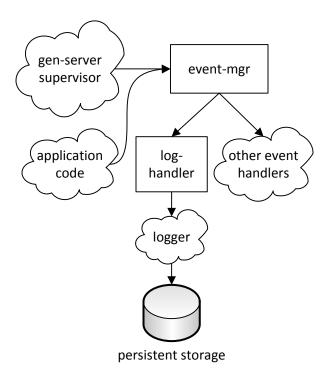


Figure 5.1: Event flow

event-buffer: list of events to be processed (most recent first), or #f when buffering is

disabled

log-handler: <handler> tuple or #f
handlers: list of <handler> tuples

<handler> tuple

proc: procedure of one argument, the event owner: process that owns the handler

init The init procedure initializes the state of the gen-server. Event buffering is enabled.

The gen-server traps exits so that it can detect failure of event handler owner processes, as well as the EXIT message from the parent process.

terminate The terminate procedure flushes any pending events to the console using do-notify.

handle-call The handle-call procedure processes the following messages:

• #(add-handler proc owner): Link to the owner process, add a handler to the state and return ok.

An invalid argument results in the following error reasons:

- #(invalid-procedure proc)

- #(invalid-owner owner)
- flush-buffer: Process the events in the buffer using do-notify, turn off buffering, and return ok.
- #(set-log-handler proc owner): Link to the owner process, set the log handler of the state, and return ok.

An invalid argument results in the following error reasons:

- log-handler-already-set
- #(invalid-procedure proc)
- #(invalid-owner owner)

handle-cast The handle-cast procedure does not process any messages.

handle-info The handle-info procedure handles the following messages:

- #(notify event): Process event using do-notify.

  event is any Scheme datum.
- #(EXIT pid \_): Removes the log or other event handler associated with pid.

Internally, the (do-notify event state) procedure handles the processing of each event with respect to the current state. It evaluates the state in the following way:

- If the state is not buffering:
  - 1. Call each handler's *proc* with *event*. If it exits for some reason, kill the handler's *owner* with the same reason.
  - 2. If there is a log handler, call its *proc* with *event*. If it exits for some reason, unlink its *owner*, kill it with the same reason, log *event* to the console using console-event-handler, and remove the log handler from the state.
- Otherwise, buffer the event.

## 5.3 Programming Interface

```
(event-mgr:start&link) procedure
returns: #(ok pid) | #(error reason)
```

The event-mgr:start&link procedure creates a new event-mgr gen-server using gen-server:start&link.

The event manager is registered as event-mgr.

(event-mgr:add-handler proc [owner]) procedure

returns: ok | #(error reason)

The event-mgr:add-handler procedure calls (gen-server:call event-mgr #(add-handler procedure)).

proc is a procedure of one argument, the event. Failure in proc results in the event manager killing the owner process with the same failure reason. The handler is removed when the event manager receives an EXIT message from owner.

owner is a process. The default is the calling process.

(event-mgr:flush-buffer)

procedure

returns: ok

The event-mgr:flush-buffer procedure calls (gen-server:call event-mgr flush-buffer).

(event-mgr:notify event)

procedure

returns: ok

The event-mgr:notify procedure sends message #(notify event) to registered process event-mgr if it exists. If event-mgr does not exist, it prints event using console-event-handler.

event is any Scheme datum.

Because the gen-server library uses event-mgr:notify, it is implemented there.

(event-mgr:set-log-handler proc owner)

procedure

returns: ok | #(error reason)

The event-mgr:set-log-handler procedure calls (gen-server:call event-mgr #(set-log-handler proc owner)).

proc is a procedure of one argument, the event. Failure in proc results in the event manager killing the owner process with the same failure reason. The log handler is removed when proc fails or the event manager receives an EXIT message from owner.

owner is a process.

## Chapter 6

# Gatekeeper

#### 6.1 Introduction

The gatekeeper is a single gen-server named gatekeeper that manages shared resources using mutexes. Before a process uses a shared resource, it asks the gatekeeper to enter the corresponding mutex. When the process no longer needs the resource or terminates, it tells the gatekeeper to leave the mutex. A process may enter the same mutex multiple times, and it needs to leave the mutex the same number of times. The gatekeeper breaks deadlocks by raising an exception in one of the processes waiting for a mutex involved in a cyclic dependency chain.

The gatekeeper hooks system primitives \$cp0, \$np-compile, pretty-print, and sc-expand because they are not safe to be called from two processes at the same time (see the discussion of the global winders list in Section 3.3). The \$cp0 procedure uses resource \$cp0, the \$np-compile procedure uses resource \$np-compile, and so forth.

## 6.2 Theory of Operation

state The gatekeeper state is a list of <mutex> tuples, each of which has the following fields:

- resource: resource compared for equality using eq?
- process: process that owns resource
- monitor: monitor of process
- count: number of times process has entered this mutex
- waiters: ordered list of from arguments from handle-call for processes that are waiting to enter this mutex

init The gatekeeper init procedure hooks the system primitives listed in the introduction so that they use with-gatekeeper-mutex with a timeout of one minute, and it sets the current-expand parameter to the hooked sc-expand procedure. The process traps exits so that terminate can unhook the system primitives when the process is shut down. It returns an empty list of <mutex> tuples.

terminate The gatekeeper terminate procedure unhooks the system primitives listed in the introduction and sets the current-expand parameter to the unhooked sc-expand procedure.

handle-call The gatekeeper handle-call procedure handles the following messages:

- #(enter resource): Find mutex ∈ state where mutex.resource = resource.
  If no such mutex exists, no-reply with (enter-mutex resource from '() state).
  If mutex.process = from.process, increment mutex.count, and reply ok with the updated state.
  If (deadlock? from.process mutex state), reply #(deadlock resource) with state.
  - Otherwise, add from to the end of mutex.waiters, and no-reply with the updated state.
- #(leave resource): Find  $mutex \in state$  where mutex.resource = resource and mutex.process = from.process.
  - If no such *mutex* exists, reply #(unowned-resource resource) with state.
  - If mutex.count > 1, decrement mutex.count, and reply ok with the updated state.
  - Otherwise, reply ok with (leave-mutex mutex state).

handle-cast The gatekeeper handle-cast procedure raises an exception on all messages.

handle-info The gatekeeper handle-info procedure handles the following message:

• #(DOWN monitor \_ \_): Find mutex ∈ state where mutex.monitor = monitor. No-reply with (leave-mutex mutex state).

#### (enter-mutex resource from waiters state)

procedure

returns: updated state

The enter-mutex procedure calls (gen-server:reply from 'ok) to reply to the caller waiting to enter the mutex. It adds a <mutex> tuple with resource = resource, process = from.process, monitor = (monitor process), count = 1, and waiters = waiters to state.

#### (leave-mutex mutex state)

procedure

returns: updated state

The leave-mutex procedure calls (demonitor&flush mutex.monitor). If mutex.waiters = (), it returns (remq mutex state). Otherwise, it returns (enter-mutex mutex.resource (car mutex.waiters) (cdr mutex.waiters) (remq mutex state)).

#### (deadlock? process mutex state)

procedure

returns: a boolean

The deadlock? procedure returns #t if process would deadlock waiting for mutex. Let owner = mutex.process. If owner = process, return #t. Otherwise, find the mutex  $waiting \in state$  where #(owner \_)  $\in waiting.waiters$ . If no such waiting exists, return #f. Otherwise, return (deadlock? process waiting state).

### 6.3 Programming Interface

(gatekeeper:start&link) procedure

returns: #(ok pid) | #(error reason)

The gatekeeper:start&link procedure calls (gen-server:start&link 'gatekeeper).

(gatekeeper:enter resource timeout) procedure

returns: ok

The gatekeeper:enter procedure calls (gen-server:call 'gatekeeper #(enter resource) timeout) to enter the mutex for resource. If it returns  $e \neq ok$ , it raises exception e.

(gatekeeper:leave resource) procedure

returns: ok

The gatekeeper:leave procedure calls (gen-server:call 'gatekeeper #(leave resource)) to leave the mutex for resource. If it returns  $e \neq ok$ , it raises exception e.

(with-gatekeeper-mutex resource timeout  $body_1 \ body_2 \dots$ ) syntax expands to: (\$with-gatekeeper-mutex 'resource timeout (lambda ()  $body_1 \ body_2 \dots$ ))

The with-gatekeeper-mutex form executes the body expressions in a dynamic context where the calling process owns *resource*, which must be an identifier. The *timeout* expression specifies how long the caller is willing to wait to enter the mutex for *resource* as defined by gen-server:call. The internal \$with-gatekeeper-mutex procedure is defined as follows:

(define (\$with-gatekeeper-mutex resource timeout body)
 (dynamic-wind
 (lambda () (gatekeeper:enter resource timeout))
 body
 (lambda () (gatekeeper:leave resource))))

## Chapter 7

# Supervisor

#### 7.1 Introduction

In a fault tolerant system, faults must first be observed and then acted upon. A supervisor monitors child processes for failure and can be composed into a hierarchy to monitor for faults within other supervisors.

The principles of supervisors and supervision hierarchies can be found in Joe Armstrong's thesis [1] or *Programming Erlang—Software for a Concurrent World* [2]. Documentation for Erlang's supervisor is available online [12]. Source code for the Erlang Open Telecom Platform can be found online [8]. The source code for supervisor is part of stdlib and can be found in /lib/stdlib/src/supervisor.erl.

Patterns for Fault Tolerant Software [15] is a good reference for understanding the mindset of creating fault tolerant systems.

## 7.2 Theory of Operation

A *supervisor* is a gen-server which is responsible for starting, stopping, and monitoring its child processes. A supervisor observes its children, and when a failure occurs, restarts child processes.

A watcher is a supervisor which is configured to only observe the children. A watcher interface is provided for convenience.

A supervisor can be configured to restart individual children when those children fail, or to restart all children when any child fails. This is called the restart *strategy*. A strategy of one-for-one indicates that when a child process terminates, it should be restarted; only that child process is affected. A strategy of one-for-all indicates that when a child process terminates and should be restarted, all other child process are terminated and then restarted.

A supervisor maintains a list of times of when a restart occurs. When a child fails and is to be restarted, a timestamp is added to the *restarts* list. A maximum restart frequency is represented as an *intensity* and a *period* of time. If more than *intensity* restarts occur in a *period* of time, the supervisor terminates all child processes and then itself. This prevents the possibility of an infinite

cycle of child process termination and restarts.

A supervisor is started with a list of child specifications. These specifications are used to start child processes from within the supervisor process during initialization.

Child specifications can be added to a supervisor at run time. These dynamic children will not be automatically restarted if the supervisor itself terminates and is restarted.

state (define-state-tuple <supervisor-state> strategy intensity period children restarts)

- strategy defines how the supervisor processes a child termination: one-for-one or one-for-all.
- intensity is the maximum restart intensity.
- period is the maximum restart period in milliseconds.
- children is a list of <child> tuples with the most recently started child first.
- restarts is an ordered list of times when restarts have occurred.

(define-tuple <child> pid name thunk restart-type shutdown type) pid stores the child process or #f. The remaining fields are copied from the child specification described below.

init The init procedure validates the startup arguments and starts the initial child processes. Invalid startup arguments cause the supervisor to fail to start. If any child fails to start, all started children are terminated and the supervisor fails to start.

This process traps exits so that it can detect child exits, as well as the EXIT message from the parent process.

An invalid argument results in a specific error reason that includes the invalid input.

- #(invalid-strategy strategy)
- #(invalid-intensity intensity)
- #(invalid-period period)

An invalid child specification during initialization will result in #(error #(start-specs reason)) where reason is one of the reasons listed in the programming interface below.

terminate The terminate procedure shuts each child process down in order (most recently added first).

handle-call The handle-call procedure processes the following messages:

• #(start-child child-spec): Validates the child-spec, starts the child, adds it to the state, and replies with #(ok pid) where pid is the new child process.

If a child specification of the same name already exists, #(error already-present) is returned. If the child process was already started #(error #(already-started pid)) is returned.

A successfully started child is linked to the supervisor, an event is fired to the event manager to log the start, and  $\#(ok\ pid)$  is returned. If the pid already occurs in the children list, then start-child returns  $\#(error\ \#(duplicate-process\ pid))$ .

If the child process start function returns ignore, the child specification is added to the supervisor, and the function returns #(ok #f).

If the child process start function returns #(error reason), then start-child returns #(error reason).

If the child process start function exits with reason, #(error reason) is returned.

If the child process start function returns *other* values #(error #(bad-return-value *other*)) is returned.

• #(restart-child name): Finds a child by name, verifies that it is not currently running, then starts that child.

If the child process is already running, #(error running) is returned. If the child specification does not exist, #(error not-found) is returned.

A successfully started child is linked to the supervisor, an event is fired to the event manager to log the start, and #(ok pid) is returned. If the pid already occurs in the children list, then restart-child returns #(error #(duplicate-process pid)).

If the child process start function returns ignore, the child specification is added to the supervisor and the function returns #(ok #f).

If the child process start function returns #(error reason), then restart-child returns #(error reason).

If the child process start function exits with reason, #(error reason) is returned.

If the child process start function returns *other* values #(error #(bad-return-value *other*)) is returned.

• #(delete-child name): Finds a child by name, verifies that it is not currently running, then removes the child specification from the state and returns ok.

If the child process is running, #(error running) is returned. If the child specification does not exist, #(error not-found) is returned.

• #(terminate-child name): Finds a child by name and terminates it if it is running. The child pid is updated to #f and returns ok.

If the child specification does not exist, #(error not-found) is returned.

• get-children: Returns the state's children field.

handle-cast The handle-cast procedure does not process any messages.

handle-info The handle-info procedure processes the following message:

• #(EXIT pid reason): Find pid in the children list and apply the restart strategy. An unknown pid is ignored.

When the child specification restart-type is permanent or transient the current timestamp is prepended to the restarts list. The list is then pruned based on the period. If the resulting list length <= intensity, the supervisor continues. Otherwise, the supervisor terminates with reason shutdown.

Internally, the (shutdown pid x) function kills child processes and returns the exit reason. This function is used by terminate, terminate-child, and during a failed init. The following steps are necessary to defend against a "naughty" child which unlinks from the supervisor.

- Monitor pid to protect against a child process which may have called unlink.
- Unlink pid to stop receiving EXIT messages from pid.
- An EXIT message may already exist for *pid*. If it does, then wait for the DOWN message, and return the exit reason.
- If x = brutal-kill, kill pid with reason kill and wait for the DOWN message to determine the exit reason.
- Otherwise, x is a timeout. kill pid with reason shutdown and wait for the DOWN message to determine the exit reason. If a timeout occurs, kill pid with reason kill, and wait for the DOWN message to determine the exit reason.

## 7.3 Design Decisions

Our initial implementation did not automatically link to child processes, but this led to unexpected behavior when child processes neglected to link to the supervisor. Therefore, this implementation links to all child processes.

## 7.4 Programming Interface

supervisor:start&link and supervisor:start-child use a child specification. A child specification is defined as:

 $child\text{-}spec \rightarrow \#(name\ thunk\ restart\text{-}type\ shutdown\ type)$ 

name is a symbol unique to the children within the supervisor.

thunk is a procedure that should spawn a process and link to the supervisor process, then return #(ok pid) or #(error reason) or ignore. Typically, the thunk will call gen-server:start&link which provides the appropriate behavior and return value.

restart-type is a symbol with the following meaning:

- A permanent child process is aways restarted.
- A temporary child process is never restarted.

- A transient child process is only restarted if it terminates with an exit reason other than normal or shutdown.
- A watch-only child process is never restarted, and its child specification is removed from the supervisor when it terminates.

shutdown defines how a child process should be terminated.

- brutal-kill indicates that the child process will be terminated using (kill pid kill).
- A fixnum > 0 represents a timeout. The supervisor will use (kill pid shutdown) and wait for an exit signal. If no exit signal is received within the timeout, the child process will be terminated using (kill pid kill). infinity can be used if and only if the type of the process is supervisor.

The *type* is useful for validating the *shutdown* parameter, but is otherwise unused. It may be useful in conjunction with **supervisor:get-children** to generate a tree of the running supervision hierarchy.

```
type \rightarrow 	ext{supervisor}
| 	ext{worker}
```

Invalid child specifications will result in specific error reasons which include the invalid input.

- #(invalid-name name)
- #(invalid-thunk thunk)
- #(invalid-restart-type restart-type)
- #(invalid-type type)
- #(invalid-shutdown shutdown)
- #(invalid-child-spec spec)

```
(supervisor:start&link name strategy intensity period start-specs) procedure returns: #(ok pid) | #(error reason)
```

The supervisor:start&link procedure creates a new supervisor gen-server using gen-server:start&link.

\*name\* is the registered name of the process. For an anonymous server, #f may be specified.

```
strategy 
ightarrow 	ext{ one-for-one} \ | 	ext{ one-for-all}  intensity 
ightarrow 	ext{ a fixnum} >= 0 period 
ightarrow 	ext{ a fixnum} > 0 start\text{-}specs 
ightarrow 	ext{ (child-spec ...)}
```

```
(supervisor:start-child supervisor child-spec) procedure
```

```
returns: #(ok pid) | #(error reason)
```

This procedure dynamically adds the given *child-spec* to the *supervisor* which starts a child process.

The supervisor:start-child procedure calls (gen-server:call supervisor #(start-child child-spec) infinity).

```
(supervisor:restart-child supervisor name)
returns: #(ok pid) | #(error reason)
```

This procedure restarts a child process identified by *name*. The child specification must exist, and the child process must not be running.

The supervisor:restart-child procedure calls (gen-server:call supervisor #(restart-child name) infinity).

```
(supervisor:delete-child supervisor name)
returns: ok | #(error reason)
```

This procedure deletes the child specification identified by *name*. The child process must not be running.

The supervisor:delete-child procedure calls (gen-server:call supervisor #(delete-child name) infinity).

```
(supervisor:terminate-child supervisor name)
returns: ok | #(error reason)
```

This procedure terminates the child process identified by *name*. The child specification must exist, but the child process does not need be running.

The supervisor:terminate-child procedure calls (gen-server:call supervisor #(terminate-child name) infinity).

```
(supervisor:get-children supervisor)
returns: a list of <child> tuples
```

This procedure returns the *supervisor* internal representation of child specifications.

The supervisor: get-children procedure calls (gen-server: call supervisor get-children infinity).

#### 7.5 Published Events

A supervisor can notify the event manager of the same events as a gen-server, as well as the following events.

```
event 
ightarrow 	ext{ <supervisor-error>} \ | 	ext{ <child-start>} \ | 	ext{ <child-end>}
```

<supervisor-error>
event

timestamp: the time the event occured supervisor: the supervisor's process id
error-context: the context in which the event occured reason: the reason for the error child-pid: the child's process id child-name: the child's name

This event is fired when the supervisor fails to start its children, fails to restart its children, or when it has exceeded the maximum restart frequency.

<child-start> event

timestamp: the time the event occured supervisor: the supervisor's process id pid: the child's process id name: the child's name restart-type: the child's restart-type shutdown: the child's shutdown type: the child's type

This event is fired after the child start procedure has returned a valid value.

<child-end> event

timestamp: the time the event occured pid: the child's process id

killed: 1 indicates the supervisor terminated the child, 0 otherwise

reason: the reason the child has terminated

This event is fired after the supervisor terminates a child process, and after the supervisor detects a failure in a child.

#### 7.6 Watcher Interface

(watcher:start&link name)
returns: #(ok pid) | #(error reason)

The watcher:start&link procedure creates a supervisor with a strategy of one-for-one, an intensity of 0, a period of 1, and no children.

name is the registered name of the process. For an anonymous server, #f may be specified.

(watcher:start-child watcher name shutdown thunk)
returns: #(ok pid) | #(error reason)

The watcher:start-child procedure calls (supervisor:start-child watcher #(name thunk watch-only shutdown worker)).

(watcher:shutdown-children watcher) procedure

### returns: ok

The watcher:shutdown-children procedure terminates and deletes each watch-only child in watcher.

## Chapter 8

# Application

#### 8.1 Introduction

The application is a single gen-server named application that manages the lifetime of the program. It links to a process, typically the root supervisor, and shuts down the program when requested by application:shutdown or when the linked process dies.

### 8.2 Theory of Operation

state The application state is the process returned by the *starter* of application:start. It is typically the root supervisor. We refer to this variable as *process*. It may also be #f after handle-info receives the exit message for the process.

init The application init procedure takes a *starter* procedure. It calls (*starter*) and checks the return value r. If  $r = \#(ok\ process)$ , it links to process, traps exits so that it receives exit messages from process and application: shutdown, and returns  $\#(ok\ process)$ . If  $r = \#(error\ reason)$ , it returns  $\#(stop\ reason)$ .

terminate The application terminate procedure shuts down process. When process is not #f, it kills process with reason shutdown and waits indefinitely for it to terminate. Then it calls (exit-process exit-code), where exit-code is initially 2 but set to the value passed to application:shutdown. In this way, the exit code can be used to determine if the application shut down normally.

handle-call The application handle-call procedure raises an exception on all messages.

handle-cast The application handle-cast procedure raises an exception on all messages.

handle-info The application handle-info procedure handles the following message:

• #(EXIT p reason): If p = process, return #(stop reason #f). Otherwise, return #(stop reason process).

#### (exit-process exit-code)

procedure

returns: never

The exit-process procedure flushes the console output port, ignoring any exceptions, and then calls (osi\_exit exit-code).

### 8.3 Programming Interface

#### (application:start starter)

procedure

returns: ok

The application:start procedure calls (gen-server:start 'application starter). If it returns #(ok \_), application:start returns ok. If it returns #(error reason), application:start calls (console-event-handler #(application-start-failed reason)) and (exit-process 1).

#### (application: shutdown [exit-code])

procedure

returns: unspecified

The application: shutdown procedure kills the application process with reason shutdown. The exit-code defaults to 0, indicating normal shutdown. The procedure does not wait for the application process to terminate so that it can be called from a process managed by the supervision hierarchy without causing a deadlock on shutdown. If the application process does not exist, application: shutdown calls (exit-process exit-code).

## Chapter 9

## **Database Interface**

#### 9.1 Introduction

The database (db) interface is a gen-server which provides a basic transaction framework to retrieve and store data in a SQLite database. It provides functions to use transactions (directly and lazily).

The low-level SQLite interface can be found in the operating system interface design (see Chapter 2).

Other SQLite resources are available online [23] or in The Definitive Guide to SQLite [20].

### 9.2 Theory of Operation

The db gen-server serializes internal requests to the database. For storage and retrieval of data, each transaction is processed in turn by a separate linked process. The gen-server does not block waiting for this process to finish so that it can maintain linear performance by keeping its inbox short. The return value of the transaction is returned to the caller or an error is generated without tearing down the gen-server.

To facilitate logging, the db gen-server can lazily open a transaction. In order to allow other processes access to the database, lazy transactions should be closed occasionally. To support this, it tracks a count of entries in the current transaction. A transaction is committed when the threshold of 10,000 is reached, the message queue of the db is empty, or when a direct transaction is requested. Each database is created with write-ahead logging enabled to prevent write operations from blocking on queries made from another connection.

SQLite has three types of transactions: deferred, immediate, and exclusive. This interface uses only immediate transactions to simplify the handling of the SQLITE\_BUSY error. Using immediate transactions means that SQLITE\_BUSY will only occur during BEGIN IMMEDIATE, BEGIN TRANSACTION, COMMIT, and ROLLBACK<sup>1</sup> statements. For each of these statements, when a SQLITE\_BUSY occurs, the code waits for a brief time, then retries the statement. The wait times in milliseconds follow the pattern (2 3 6 11 16 21 26 26 26 51 51 . #0=(101 . #0#)), and up to 500 retries are attempted before exiting with #(db-retry-failed sql count). When the retry count is positive,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Our testing showed that ROLLBACK returns SQLITE\_BUSY only when a COMMIT for the same transaction returned SQLITE\_BUSY. This framework never causes that situation to occur, but it guards against it anyway.

it is logged to the event manager along with the total duration with a <transaction-retry> event.

#### <transaction-retry>

event

timestamp: timestamp from erlang:now
 database: database filename
 duration: duration in milliseconds
 count: retry count
 sql: query

The db gen-server uses the operating system interface to interact with SQLite. To prevent memory leaks, each raw database and statement handle is wrapped in a Scheme record and registered with a guardian.

state (define-state-tuple <db-state> filename db cache queue worker)

- filename is the database specified when the server was started.
- db is the database record.
- cache is a hash table mapping SQL strings to SQLite prepared statements.
- queue is a queue of log and transaction requests.
- worker is the pid of the active worker or #f.

#### dictionary parameters

• current-database stores a Scheme record: (define-record-type database (fields (mutable handle))) The handle is set to #f when the database is closed.

• statement-cache stores a Scheme record:

(define-record-type cache (fields (immutable ht) (mutable waketime) (mutable lazystatements)))

The waketime is the next time the cache will attempt to remove dead entries.

The hash table, ht, maps SQL strings to a Scheme record: (define-record-type entry (fields (immutable stmt) (mutable timestamp)))

When a SQL string is not found in the cache, PrepareStatement is used with the current-database to make a SQLite statement. The raw statement handle is stored in a Scheme record:

(define-record-type statement (fields (immutable handle) (immutable database))) The statement record is not registered with a guardian. The statement is finalized using FinalizeStatement when it is removed from the cache. CloseDatabase will finalize any remaining statements associated with the database.

When a SQL string is found in the cache, the entry's timestamp is updated. Entries older than 5 minutes will be removed from the cache.

Accessing the cache may exit with reason reason #(db-error prepare error sql), where error is a SQLite error pair.

The lazy-statements list contains statement records created by lazy-execute. These statements are finalized when a transaction completes.

init The init procedure takes a filename and mode symbol and attempts to open that database, setting journal\_mode to "wal" if *mode* is create. The handle returned from OpenDatabase is wrapped in a *database* record that is registered with a guardian. The garbage collector is hooked so that dead databases are closed even if the db gen-server fails to close them for any reason.

The gen-server traps exits so that it can close the database in its terminate procedure.

terminate The terminate flushes the queue and closes the database.

handle-call The handle-call procedure processes the following messages:

- #(transaction f): Add this transaction along with the from argument to handle-call to the queue. Process the queue.
- filename: Return the database filename.
- stop: Flush the queue and stop with reason normal, returning stopped to the caller.

handle-cast The handle-cast procedure processes the following message:

• #(log sql bindings): Add this tuple to the queue. Process the queue.

handle-info The handle-info procedure processes the following messages:

- timeout: Remove old entries from the statement cache.
- #(EXIT worker-pid normal): The worker finished the previous request successfully. Process the queue.
- #(EXIT worker-pid reason): The worker failed to process the previous request. Flush the queue and stop with reason.

## 9.3 Design Decisions

There is a one-to-one relationship between a SQLite database handle and the db gen-server. For clarity, the database handle and a SQLite statement cache are implemented in terms of Erlang process dictionary parameters.

An alternate approach for logging was already explored where a transaction was not lazily opened. Such an approach means that when a third party tool tries to access the database, it will hang until the transaction is complete.

A commit threshold of 10,000 was chosen because it was large enough to minimize the cost of a transaction but small enough to execute simple queries in less than one second.

### 9.4 Programming Interface

(db:start&link name filename mode) procedure returns: #(ok pid) | #(error error)

The db:start&link procedure creates a new db gen-server using gen-server:start&link.

name is the registered name of the process. For an anonymous server, #f may be specified.

filename is the path to a SQLite database.

mode is one of the following symbols used to pass SQLite flags to OpenDatabase:

- read-only uses the SQLite flag SQLITE\_OPEN\_READONLY.
- open uses the SQLite flag SQLITE\_OPEN\_READWRITE.
- create combines the SQLite flags (logor SQLITE\_OPEN\_READWRITE SQLITE\_OPEN\_CREATE).

The SQLite constants can be found in sqlite3.h or online [23].

This procedure may return an *error* of #(db-error open *error* filename), where *error* is a SQLite error pair.

(db:stop who) procedure

returns: stopped

The db:stop procedure calls (gen-server:call who stop infinity).

```
(with-db [db filename flags] body_1 body_2 ...)

expands to:

(let ([db (sqlite:open filename flags)])

(on-exit (sqlite:close db)

body_1 body_2 ...))
```

The with-db macro opens the database in *filename*, executes the statements in the body, and closes the database before exiting. This is a suitable alternative to starting a gen-server when you need to query a database using a separate SQLite connection, and you do not need to cache prepared SQL statements.

(db:filename who) procedure

returns: the database filename

The db:filename procedure calls (gen-server:call who filename).

```
(db:log who sql . bindings) procedure returns: ok
```

The db:log procedure calls (gen-server:cast who #(log sql bindings)). sql is a SQL string, and bindings is a list of values to be bound in the query. Because db:log does not wait for a reply from the server, any error in processing the request will crash the server.

```
(db:transaction who f)
```

procedure

returns: #(ok result) | #(error error)

The db:transaction procedure calls (gen-server:call who #(transaction f) infinity).

f is a thunk which returns a single value, result. execute, lazy-execute, and columns can be used inside the procedure f.

result is the successful return value of f. Typically, this is a list of rows as returned by a SELECT query.

*error* is the failure reason of f.

#### (transaction db body ...)

syntax

expands to:

```
(match (db:transaction db (lambda () body ...)) [#(ok ,result) result] [#(error ,reason) (raise reason)])
```

The transaction macro runs the body in a transaction and returns the result when successful and exits when unsuccessful.

#### (execute sql . bindings)

procedure

**returns:** a list of rows where each row is a vector of data in column order as specified in the sql statement

execute should only be used from within a thunk f provided to db:transaction.

sql is mapped to a SQLite statement using the statement-cache. The bindings are then applied using BindStatement. The statement is then executed using StepStatement. The results are accumulated as a list, and the statement is reset using ResetStatement to prevent the statement from locking parts of the database.

This procedure may exit with reason #(db-error prepare error sql), where error is a SQLite error pair.

#### (lazy-execute sql . bindings)

procedure

returns: a thunk

lazy-execute should only be used from within a thunk f provided to db:transaction.

A new SQLite statement is created from sql using PrepareStatement so that the statement won't interfere with any other queries. The statement is added to the lazy-statements list of the statement-cache and is finalized when the transaction completes. The bindings are then applied using BindStatement. A thunk is returned which, when called, executes the statement using StepStatement. The thunk returns one row of data or #f.

This procedure may exit with reason #(db-error prepare error sql), where error is a SQLite error pair.

(execute-sql db sql . bindings)

procedure

**returns:** a list of rows where each row is a vector of data in column order as specified in the sql statement

execute-sql should only be used for statements that do not need to be inside a transaction, such as a one-time query.

sql is prepared into a SQLite statement for use with db, executed via sqlite:execute with the specified bindings, and finalized.

This procedure may exit with reason #(db-error prepare error sql), where error is a SQLite error pair.

(columns sql) procedure

**returns:** a vector of column names in order as specified in the sql statement

columns should only be used from within a thunk f provided to db:transaction.

sql is mapped to a SQLite statement using the statement-cache. The statement columns are then retrieved using GetStatementColumns.

#### (parse-sql x [symbol->sql])

procedure

returns: two values: a query string and a list of syntax objects for the arguments

The parse-sql procedure is used by macro transformers to take syntax object x and produce a query string and associated arguments according to the patterns below. When one of these patterns is matched, the symbol->sql procedure is applied to the remaining symbols of the input before they are spliced into the query string, as if by (format "~a" (symbol->sql sym)). By default, symbol->sql is the identity function.

- (insert table ([column  $e_1$   $e_2$  ...] ...)
  - The insert form generates a SQL insert statement. The *table* and *column* patterns are SQL identifiers. Any *e* expression that is (unquote *exp*) is converted to ? in the query, and *exp* is added to the list of arguments. All other expressions are spliced into the query string.
- (update table ([ $column \ e_1 \ e_2 \ \dots$ ]  $\dots$ )  $where \dots$ )
  - The update form generates a SQL update statement. The *table* and *column* patterns are SQL identifiers. Any *e* or *where* expression that is (unquote *exp*) is converted to? in the query, and *exp* is added to the list of arguments. All other expressions are spliced into the query string.
- (delete table where ...)

The delete form generates a SQL delete statement. The *table* pattern is a SQL identifier. Any *where* expression that is (unquote *exp*) is converted to? in the query, and *exp* is added to the list of arguments. All other expressions are spliced into the query string.

(database-count) procedure

returns: the number of open databases

The database-count procedure returns the number of open databases.

(print-databases [op])

procedure

returns: unspecified

The print-databases procedure prints information about all open databases to textual output port op, which defaults to the current output port.

(statement-count)

procedure

returns: the number of unfinalized statements

The statement-count procedure returns the number of unfinalized statements.

(print-statements [op])

procedure

returns: unspecified

The print-statements procedure prints information about all unfinalized statements to textual output port *op*, which defaults to the current output port.

(sqlite:bind stmt bindings)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The sqlite:bind procedure binds the variables in statement record instance *stmt* with the list of *bindings*. It resets the statement before binding the variables.

(sqlite:clear-bindings stmt)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The sqlite:clear-bindings procedure clears the variable bindings in statement record instance stmt.

(sqlite:close db)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The sqlite: close procedure closes the database associated with database record instance db.

(sqlite:columns stmt)

procedure

returns: a vector of column names

The sqlite:columns procedure returns a vector of column names for the statement record instance stmt.

(sqlite:execute stmt bindings)

procedure

returns: a list of rows where each row is a vector of data in column order

The sqlite:execute procedure calls (sqlite:bind stmt bindings) to bind any variables and then iteratively calls (sqlite:step stmt) to build the resulting list of rows. It resets the statement when the procedure exits.

(sqlite:expanded-sql stmt)

procedure

returns: a string

The sqlite:expanded-sql procedure returns the SQL string expanded with the binding values for the statement record instance stmt.

(sqlite:finalize stmt) procedure

returns: unspecified

The sqlite:finalize procedure finalizes the statement record instance stmt.

(sqlite:interrupt db) procedure

returns: unspecified

The sqlite:interrupt procedure interrupts any pending operations on the database associated with database record instance db.

(sqlite:last-insert-rowid db) procedure

returns: unspecified

The sqlite:last-insert-rowid procedure returns the rowid of the most recent successful insert into a rowid table or virtual table on the database associated with database record instance db. It returns 0 if no such insert has occurred.

(sqlite:open filename flags) procedure

returns: a database record instance

The sqlite:open procedure opens the SQLite database in file *filename* with *flags* specified by sqlite3\_open\_v2 [23]. The constants SQLITE\_OPEN\_CREATE, SQLITE\_OPEN\_READONLY, and SQLITE\_OPEN\_READONLY, and SQLITE\_OPEN\_READONLY.

(sqlite:prepare db sql) procedure

returns: a statement record instance

The sqlite:prepare procedure returns a statement record instance for the sql statement in the database record instance db.

(sqlite:sql stmt) procedure

returns: a string

The sqlite:sql procedure returns the unexpanded SQL string for the statement record instance stmt.

(sqlite:step stmt) procedure

returns: a vector of data in column order or #f

The sqlite:step procedure steps the statement record instance *stmt* and returns the next row vector in column order or #f if there are no more rows.

## Chapter 10

## Log Database

#### 10.1 Introduction

The log database is a single gen-server named log-db that uses the database interface (see Chapter 9) to log system events (see Chapter 5).

#### 10.2 Theory of Operation

#### 10.2.1 Initialization

The log-db gen-server handles startup and setup through two separate procedures. Startup uses the db:start&link procedure to connect to the the SQLite log database specified by the (log-file) parameter. It creates the file if it does not exist, but otherwise startup does not modify the database.

Setup makes sure the schema of the log database has been created and is up-to-date. A unique symbol identifying the schema version is stored in a table named version. This allows the software to upgrade between known schema versions and to exit with an error when it encounters an unsupported database version. These schema updates happen within a database transaction so that if there is an error, the changes are rolled back.

Setup calls event-mgr:set-log-handler after updating the schema. This registers the log-db to log system events. It also calls event-mgr:flush-buffer. This causes the event manager to stop buffering startup events and the log-db to log the events that were buffered.

Finally, setup sends a <system-attributes> event so that log-db receives and logs it.

Once the log-db gen-server has been setup, it continues to receive events from the system event manager. It converts events that it recognizes into insertions to the log database. Events that it does not recognize are ignored.

The tables are pruned using insert triggers to hold 90 days of information. To keep the insert operations fast, the timestamp columns are indexed, and the pruning deletes no more than 10 rows per insert.

#### 10.2.2 Extensions

An application typically produces events beyond those that are part of Swish and may wish to log them in the same log database file where the Swish events are logged. The log-db design allows for this type of extension.

The log-db:setup procedure takes a list of <event-logger> tuples. Each logger represents an extension to the log database schema and contains two procedures, setup and log. The log-db:setup procedure calls the setup procedure of logger to make sure that its portion of the schema has been created and is up-to-date. Then, when log-db receives an event, it calls the log procedure of each logger. If the event is recognized by that portion of the schema, the log procedure inserts or updates data in the log database. Otherwise, the procedure ignores that event.

Additionally, the version table does not store a single schema version. Instead, it stores schema versions associated with names. The setup procedure of an <event-logger> uses an unique name for its portion of the schema and the log-db:version procedure to retrieve and set its version.

The schema and logging for Swish events is implemented as an <event-logger> defined by swish-event-logger and using the schema version name swish. An application that wishes to use this logging must provide swish-event-logger in the list to log-db:setup. If the application wishes to log Swish events in a different structure, it can omit the swish-event-logger and provide its own logger with its own schema. However, doing so makes the application more brittle with respect to changes in the Swish implementation.

#### 10.3 Programming Interface

<event-logger>

setup: procedure of no arguments that makes sure this portion of the schema is created and up-to-date

log: procedure of one argument, an event, that logs the event if it recognizes it and otherwise ignores it

(log-db:start&link) procedure

returns: #(ok pid) | #(error error)

The log-db:start&link procedure creates a new db gen-server named log-db using db:start&link. It uses the value of the (log-file) parameter as the path to the SQLite database and specifies create mode.

(log-db:setup loggers) procedure

returns: ignore | #(error error)

The argument *loggers* is a list of <event-logger> tuples. The log-db:setup makes sure the log-db is setup to run by doing the following in order.

1. Initialize or upgrade the database schema from within a db:transaction call. It does this by calling the setup procedure of each logger.

- 2. Register a procedure with event-mgr:set-log-handler to have the log-db gen-server log events it recognizes. When this procedure receives an event, it calls the log procedure of each logger.
- 3. Call event-mgr:flush-buffer to stop buffering system events and apply the log handler to the events already buffered.
- 4. Send a <system-attributes> event.

If everything succeeds, the procedure returns ignore. If either the db:transaction or event-mgr:set-log-handler indicate an error, the procedure returns that error.

#### (log-db:version name [version])

procedure

name: symbol identifying the schema version: string specifying the version of the schema

When called with one argument, log-db:version retrieves the version associated with *name* from the database and returns it as a string. It returns #f if no version associated with *name* is stored in the database.

When called with two arguments, it stores *version* as the version associated with *name* in the database.

#### (log-db:get-instance-id)

procedure

returns: a string

log-db:setup associates a globally unique identifier with the database file. The log-db:get-instance-id function caches and returns that identifier.

#### swish-event-logger

property

The swish-event-logger is an <event-logger> tuple that defines the schema for Swish events. It uses the name swish to store its schema version.

```
(create-table name
(field type . inline)
...)
```

expands to: (execute "create table if not exists ...")

The create-table syntax describes the schema of a single table and expands into a call to execute to create the table if no table with that name already exists. The name of the table, name, and of each field, field, are converted from Scheme to SQL identifiers by replacing hyphen characters with underscores and eliminating any non-alphanumeric and non-underscore characters. The SQL definition of each field is produced by joining the converted field name, the type and any additional inline arguments into a space separated string.

```
(define-simple-events create handle

(name clause ...)
...)
```

**expands to:** A definition of the *create* and *handle* procedures

The define-simple-events syntax is used to log tuple types by inserting a row into a table with the same name and the same fields. Each *name* is a tuple type. Each *clause* is a valid create-table clause for one of the fields in that tuple type.

It defines *create* as a procedure of 0 arguments that consists of a (create-table *name clause* ...) for each tuple in the define-simple-events. This means that the name of the tuple type and each field are converted to SQL names by the create-table syntax.

It defines *handle* as a procedure of 1 argument, an event. If the event is one of the tuple types in the define-simple-events, it calls db:log with an insert statement applying coerce to each value. If the event is unrecognized, it returns #f.

(coerce x) procedure

returns: a Scheme object

The argument x is a Scheme object mapped to a SQLite value.

$\_type$	transformation
string	string
by tevector	by tevector
number	number, if it fits in 64 bits
symbol	symbol->string
date	format-rfc2822
process	integer key for <i>process</i> , unique in this database instance
condition	a string containing #(error reason) where the reason is obtained from
	display-condition
$continuation\hbox{-} condition$	a string containing #(error reason stack) where the stack is obtained
	from dump-stack

coerce passes #f through unmodified which SQLite interprets as NULL. Other values are converted to string using write.

#### 10.4 Published Events

<system-attributes>
event

computer-name: computer name from osi\_get\_hostname

The <system-attributes> event is sent exactly once, when log-db:setup is called.

## Chapter 11

# System Statistics

#### 11.1 Introduction

The system uses a single gen-server named statistics to periodically query statistics about the system, such as memory usage.

#### 11.2 Theory of Operation

When the statistics gen-server starts, it posts a <statistics> event with reason = startup. Every five minutes thereafter, it posts a <statistics> event with reason = update. If the computer sleeps or hibernates, the gen-server posts a <statistics> event with reason = suspend. When the computer awakens, the gen-server posts a <statistics> event with reason = resume. When the gen-server terminates, it posts a <statistics> event with reason = shutdown.

The **<statistics>** event is handled by the **log-db** gen-server (see Chapter 10), which adds the data to the statistics table in the log database.

#### 11.3 Programming Interface

(statistics:start&link) procedure
returns: #(ok pid) | #(error error)

The statistics:start&link procedure creates a new gen-server named statistics using gen-server:start&link. It then posts a <statistics> event with reason = startup.

(statistics:resume) procedure

The statistics:resume procedure casts a message to the statistics gen-server that causes it to publish a <statistics> event with reason = resume. This procedure is aliased to app:resume and called from the operating system interface.

(statistics:suspend) procedure

The statistics: suspend procedure casts a message to the statistics gen-server that causes it to publish a <statistics> event with reason = suspend. This procedure is aliased to app:suspend and called from the operating system interface.

#### 11.4 Published Events

```
<statistics>
                                                                                         event
               timestamp: timestamp from erlang:now
                     date: date from current-date
                  reason: startup, update, suspend, resume, or shutdown
           bytes-allocated: Scheme heap size from bytes-allocated
           osi-bytes-used: C heap size from osi_get_bytes_used
           sqlite-memory: SQLite memory used from osi_get_sqlite_status
 sqlite-memory-highwater: SQLite memory highwater since last event from osi_get_sqlite_status
                databases: number of open SQLite databases
              statements: number of allocated SQLite statements
                listeners: number of open TCP/IP listeners
                    ports: number of open osi-ports
                watchers: number of open path watchers
                     cpu: CPU time in seconds since last event
                     real: elapsed time in seconds since last event
                    bytes: Scheme heap bytes allocated since last event
                qc-count: number of garbage collections since last event
                  qc-cpu: CPU time in seconds of garbage collections since last event
                  gc-real: elapsed time in seconds of garbage collections since last event
                 qc-bytes: Scheme heap bytes reclaimed since last event
```

This event is sent every five minutes while the statistics gen-server is running.

## Chapter 12

## HTTP Interface

#### 12.1 Introduction

The HTTP interface provides a basic implementation of the Hypertext Transfer Protocol [13]. The programming interface includes procedures for the HyperText Markup Language (HTML) version 5 [17] and JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) [3].

#### 12.2 Theory of Operation

The HTTP interface provides a supervisor, http-sup, to manage the http-listener gen-server, the http-cache gen-server, and new connection processes. This structure is illustrated in Figure 12.1.

The http-listener is a gen-server that creates a TCP listener using listen-tcp and accepts new connections using accept-tcp. For each connection, the http-listener uses its supervisor to spawn and link a handler process.

Each handler reads from its input port until a CR LF occurs. Well-formed input is converted to a <request> tuple, and the HTTP request header and any content parameters are read.

When Content-Length appears in the header, the content bytes are read. If the Content-Type is multipart/form-data or application/x-www-form-urlencoded, the content is converted to

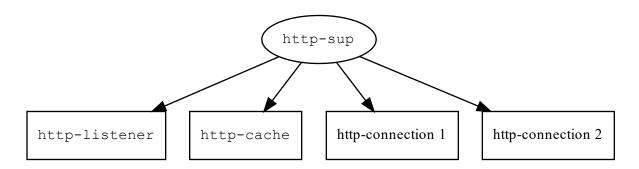


Figure 12.1: HTTP tree

an association list. Otherwise, parameter "unhandled-content" is included with the value of the raw bytevector of data. Each uploaded file is stored in (tmp-dir), and the association list value is #(<file> filename).

http:file-handler is then called combining the <request> query parameters and content parameters. http:file-handler logs the specific request, validates that the requested path does not include "..", retrieves a page handler from the http-cache, and invokes it. A page handler is a procedure which responds to a particular HTTP request. The output port is flushed after the page handler returns.

After a request is processed, all uploaded files are deleted, and the current process and connection can be reused. The system reads another request from the input port.

The http-cache is a gen-server that stores page handlers and provides a mapping from file extension to content type. It creates a directory watcher using watch-directory to invalidate the cache when anything in the (web-dir) tree changes.

The http-cache considers a path that ends in ".ss" a dynamic page loaded from (web-dir). Other paths are considered static and are sent directly over the connection using http:respond-file.

#### 12.3 Security

The HTTP interface is written in Scheme, and therefore buffer overrun exploits cannot be used against the system.

User input should be carefully checked before calling eval or invoking a database query.

A URL which directs the system away from (web-dir) using ".." could allow access to system files. http:file-handler explicitly checks for relative paths.

The HTTP interface limits incoming data to protect against large memory allocation which may crash the system. URL requests are limited to 4,096 bytes. Headers are limited to 1,048,576 bytes. Posted content is limited to 4,194,304 bytes, not including uploaded files.

The HTTP interface does not limit incoming file uploads. If the disk runs out of space, the handler process will exit with an I/O error.

#### 12.4 Dynamic Pages

A dynamic page is a sequence of definitions followed by a sequence of expressions stored in ".ss" files in (web-dir). The definitions and expressions are placed in a lambda expression that is evaluated by the interpret system procedure. The page is responsible for sending the HTTP response. The output port is flushed after the page handler returns.

#### 12.5 Dynamic Page Constructs

The evaluated lambda expression exposes the following variables to a dynamic page:

*ip*: binary input port *op*: binary output port

request: a <request> tuple header: an association list params: an association list

(find-param key) syntax

Implementation: The find-param macro expands to (http:find-param key params).

 $(get-param \ key)$  syntax

Implementation: The get-param macro expands to (http:get-param key params).

(http:include "filename")

syntax

The http:include construct includes the definitions from *filename*, a path relative to (web-dir) if *filename* begins with a forward slash, else relative to the directory of the current file.

Implementation: The http:include macro calls read-file and read-bytevector to retrieve a list of expressions that are spliced in at the same scope as the use of http:include. The splicing is done with let-syntax so that any nested http:include expressions are processed relative to the directory of *filename*.

#### 12.6 Programming Interface

<request> tuple

method: a symbol

path: a decoded string

query: a decoded association list

http-port-number

parameter

value: #f or a fixnum 0 < port < 65535

The http-port-number parameter specifies whether or not http-sup:start&link should start the HTTP server and, if started, on what port that server should listen for connections.

(http-sup:start&link)

procedure

returns: #(ok pid) | #(error error)

If (http-port-number) is not #f, the http-sup:start&link procedure creates a supervisor named http-sup using supervisor:start&link configured one-for-one with up to 10 restarts every 10 seconds. The supervisor starts the http-cache and http-listener gen-servers.

(http:get-port-number)

procedure

returns: see below

If the (http-port-number) is configured to be zero, the operating system will choose an available port number. (http:get-port-number) uses listener-port-number to retrieve the actual port number that the server is listening on.

(http:find-header name header)

procedure

returns: a string | #f

The http:find-header procedure returns the value associated with name in header. Header comparisons are case-insensitive. If name is not a string, exception #(bad-arg http:find-header *name*) is raised.

(http:get-header name header)

procedure

returns: a string

The http:get-header procedure returns the value assocated with name in header or exits with reason #(invalid-header name header). Header comparisons are case-insensitive. If name is not a string, exception #(bad-arg http:get-header name) is raised.

(http:find-param name params)

procedure

returns: a string | #f

The http:find-param procedure returns the value associated with name in params. Parameter comparisons are case-sensitive. If name is not a string, exception #(bad-arg http:find-param name) is raised.

(http:get-param name params)

procedure

returns: a string

The http:get-param procedure returns the value associated with name in params or exits with reason #(invalid-param name params). Parameter comparisons are case-sensitive. If name is not a string, exception #(bad-arg http:get-param name) is raised.

(http:read-header ip limit)

procedure

returns: an association list

The http:read-header procedure reads from the binary input port ip until a blank line is read.

An association list is created by making a string from the characters before the first colon as the key. Non-linear white space is skipped, and the remaining characters are converted to a string value.

Reading beyond limit will result in exiting with reason input-limit-exceeded.

Failure to find a colon on any given line will result in exiting with reason invalid-header.

(http:read-status ip limit)

procedure

returns: number | #f

The http:read-status procedure reads the HTTP response status line from the binary input port op and returns the number if well formed and #f otherwise. Reading beyond limit will result in exiting with reason input-limit-exceeded.

(http:write-status op status)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The http:write-status procedure writes the HTTP response status line to the binary output port op.

Unless status is a fixnum and  $100 \le status \le 599$ , the exception #(bad-arg http:write-status status) is raised.

According to HTTP [13] the status line includes a human readable reason phrase. The grammar shows that it can in fact be 0 characters long; therefore, the reason phrase is not included in this implementation.

#### (http:write-header op header)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The http:write-header procedure writes the HTTP header, and trailing CR LF to the binary output port op.

header is an association list. If header's keys are not strings, exception #(bad-arg http:write-header header) is raised.

#### (http:respond op status header content)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The http:respond procedure writes the HTTP status and header to binary output port op using http:write-status and http:write-header, adding Content-Length to the header. When Cache-Control is not present in header, it is added with value no-cache. The content is then written, and the output port is flushed.

content is a bytevector.

#### (http:respond-file op status header filename)

procedure

returns: unspecified

The http:respond-file procedure writes the HTTP status and header to binary output port op using http:write-status and http:write-header, adding Content-Length to header. The Cache-Control header is added, if it is not already present, with value max-age=3600. The Content-Type header is added if it is not already present and the extension of filename matches (case insensitively) an extension in the mime-types file of (web-dir). Each line of mime-types has the form ("extension" . "Content-Type"). The content of the file is streamed to the output port so that the file does not need to be loaded into memory. The output port is flushed.

#### (http:percent-encode s)

procedure

returns: an encoded string

The http:percent-encode procedure writes the characters A-Z, a-z, 0-9, hyphen, underscore, period, and ~. Other characters are converted to a % prefix and two digit hexadecimal representation.

(html:encode s)

procedure

(html:encode op s)

returns: see below

The html:encode procedure converts special character entities in string s.

input	output
11	"
&	<pre>&amp;</pre>
<	<pre>&lt;</pre>
>	<pre>&gt;</pre>

The single argument form of html:encode returns an encoded string.

The two argument form of html:encode sends the encoded string to the textual output port op.

```
(html->string x)
(html->string op x)
returns: see below
```

The  $\mathtt{html->string}$  procedure transforms an object into HTML. The transformation, H, is described below:

```
H(x)
()
                                                nothing
#!void
                                                nothing
string
                                                 E(string)
number
                                                 number
(begin pattern ...)
                                                 H(pattern)...
(cdata string ...)
                                                 [!CDATA[string...]]
(html5 [(@ attr ...)] pattern ...)
                                                <!DOCTYPE html><html A(attr) \ldots > H(pattern) \ldots </html>
(raw string ...)
                                                 string...
(script [(@ attr ...)] string ...)
                                                 \langle script \ A(attr) \ldots \rangle string...\langle /script \rangle
(style [(@ attr ...)] string ...)
                                                 \langle style \ A(attr) \ldots \rangle string... \langle /style \rangle
(tag \ [(@ \ attr \ \ldots)] \ pattern \ \ldots)
                                                 \langle tag \ A(attr) \ ... \rangle H(pattern) ... \langle /tag \rangle
(void\text{-}tag \ [(@ \ attr \ \ldots)])
                                                 < void-tag \ A(attr) \dots >
```

E denotes the html:encode function.

A *void-tag* is one of area, base, br, col, embed, hr, img, input, keygen, link, menuitem, meta, param, source, track, or wbr. A *tag* is any other symbol.

The attribute transformation, A, is described below, where key is a symbol:

attr	A(attr)
#!void	nothing
(key)	key
(key string)	key="E(string)"
(key number)	key="number"

The single argument form of html->string returns an encoded HTML string.

The two argument form of html->string sends the encoded HTML string to the textual output port op.

Input that does not match the specification causes a #(bad-arg html->string x) exception to be raised.

(html->bytevector x) procedure returns: a bytevector

The html->bytevector procedure calls html->string on x using a bytevector output port transcoded using (make-utf8-transcoder) and returns the resulting bytevector.

#### 12.6.1 JavaScript Object Notation

This implementation translates JavaScript types into the following Scheme types:

JavaScript	Scheme
true	#t
false	#f
null	#\nul
string	string
number	number
array	list
object	hashtable mapping case-sensitive strings to values

This implementation does not range check values to ensure that a JavaScript implementation can interpret the data.

```
(json:extend-object ht [key value] ...) syntax
```

The json:extend-object construct adds the key / value pairs to the hashtable ht using hashtable-set!. The resulting expression returns ht.

```
(json:make-object [key value] ...) syntax
```

The json:make-object construct expands into a call to json:extend-object with a new hashtable.

```
(json:read ip [custom-inflate]) procedure
returns: a Scheme object
```

The json:read procedure reads characters from the textual input port *ip* and returns an appropriate Scheme object. When json:read encounters a JSON object, it builds the corresponding hashtable and calls *custom-inflate* to perform application-specific conversion. By default, *custom-inflate* is the identity function.

The following exceptions may be raised:

- invalid-surrogate-pair
- unexpected-eof
- #(unexpected-input data input-position)

```
(json:write op x [custom-write]) procedure
```

#### returns: unspecified

The json:write procedure writes the object x to the textual output port op in JSON format. JSON objects are sorted by key using string<? to provide stable output. Scheme fixnums, bignums, and finite flonums may be used as numbers.

The optional custom-write procedure may intervene to handle lists and hashtables differently or to handle objects that have no direct JSON counterpart. If custom-write does not handle a given object, it should return false to let json:write proceed normally. The custom-write procedure is called with three arguments: the textual output port op, the Scheme object x, and a writer procedure wr that should be used to write the values of arbitrary Scheme objects. The wr procedure is equivalent to (lambda  $(op \ x)$  (json:write  $op \ x \ custom-write$ )).

If an object cannot be formatted, #(invalid-datum x) is raised.

```
(json:write-object op wr [key value] ...) syntax
```

Given a textual output port op and a writer procedure wr, the json:write-object construct writes a JSON object with the given key / value pairs to op, sorted by key using string<? Each key must be a distinct string literal. The wr procedure takes op and an object x, just like the wr procedure that is passed to json:write's custom-write procedure.

The following are equivalent, provided the keys are string literals.

```
(json:write op (json:make-object [key value] ...))
(json:write-object op json:write [key value] ...)
```

The latter trades code size and compile time for run-time efficiency. At compile time, json:write-object sorts the keys and preformats the strings that will separate values. For example:

```
(json:write-object op wr ["bar" e0] ["foo" e1] ["ace" e2])
expands to:
(let ([op op] [wr wr])
   (display "{\"ace\":" op)
   (wr op e2)
   (display ",\"bar\":" op)
   (wr op e0)
   (display ",\"foo\":" op)
   (wr op e1)
   (write-char #\} op))
```

```
(json:object->bytevector x [custom-write]) procedure returns: a bytevector
```

The json:object->bytevector procedure calls json:write on x with the optional *custom-write*, if any, using a bytevector output port transcoded using (make-utf8-transcoder) and returns the resulting bytevector.

```
(json:object->string x [custom-write]) procedure
```

returns: a JSON formatted string

The json:object->string procedure creates a string output port, calls json:write on x with the optional custom-write, if any, and returns the resulting string.

(json:string->object x [custom-inflate]) procedure

returns: a Scheme object

The json:string->object procedure creates a string input port on x, calls json:read with the optional *custom-inflate*, if any, and returns the resulting Scheme object after making sure the rest of the string is only whitespace.

#### 12.7 Published Events

<http-request> event

timestamp: timestamp from erlang:now

pid: handler process

host: the IP address of the client

method: <request> method path: <request> path header: an association list params: an association list

## Chapter 13

## Command Line Interface

#### 13.1 Introduction

The command-line interface (cli) provides parsing of command-line arguments as well as consistent usage of common options and display of help.

#### 13.2 Theory of Operation

Many programs parse command-line arguments and perform actions based on them. The cli library helps to make programs that process arguments and display help simple and consistent. Command-line arguments are parsed left to right in a single pass. Command-line interface specifications, or cli-specs, are used for parsing and error checking a command line, displaying one-line usage, and displaying a full help summary.

Arguments may be preceded by a single dash (-), a double dash (--), or no dash at all. A single dash precedes short, single character arguments. The API does not allow numbers as they could be mistaken as a negative numerical value supplied to another argument. A double dash precedes longer, more descriptive arguments, --repl for example. Positional arguments are not preceded by any dashes. As arguments with dashes are consumed, the remaining arguments are matched against the positional specifications in order.

Argument specifications include a type such as: bool, count, string, and list. A set of bool and count arguments can be specified together (-abc is equivalent to -a -b -c). Arguments of type list collect values in left to right order.

The API does not directly support sub-commands and alternate usage help text. These can be implemented using the primitives provided. The implementations of swish-build and swish-test provide examples of advanced command-line handling.

In the following REPL transcript, we define example-cli using cli-specs. We then set the command-line-arguments parameter as they would be for an application. Calling parse-command-line-arguments returns a procedure, opt, which we can use to access the parsed command-line values. Finally, we use display-help to display the automatically generated help.

```
> (define example-cli
    (cli-specs
    default-help
     ["verbose" -v count "indicates verbosity level"]
     ["output" -o (string "<output>") "print output to an <output> file"]
     ["repl" --repl bool "start a repl"]
     ["files" (list "<file>" ...) "a list of input files"]))
> (command-line-arguments '("-vvv" "-o" "file.out" "file.in"))
> (define opt (parse-command-line-arguments example-cli))
> (opt "verbose")
> (opt "output")
"file.out"
> (opt "files")
("file.in")
> (display-help "sample" example-cli)
Usage: sample [-hv] [-o <output>] [--repl] <file> ...
 -h, --help
                display this help and exit
                  indicates verbosity level
 -o <output> print output to an <output> file
                 start a repl
 --repl
 <file> ...
                a list of input files
```

Putting the parts together into sample.ss, we have a working example albeit incomplete.

```
#!/usr/bin/env swish
(define example-cli
  (cli-specs
  default-help
   ["verbose" -v count "indicates verbosity level"]
   ["output" -o (string "<output>") "print output to an <output> file"]
   ["repl" --repl bool "start a repl"]
   ["files" (list "<file>" ...) "a list of input files"]))
(let ([opt (parse-command-line-arguments example-cli)])
  (when (opt "help")
    (display-help "sample" example-cli)
    (exit 0))
  (let ([verbosity (or (opt "verbose") 0)])
    (when (> verbosity 0)
      (printf "showing verbosity level: ~a~n" verbosity)))
  (when (opt "repl")
    (new-cafe)))
```

#### 13.3 Programming Interface

expands to:

```
a list of <arg-spec> tuples
```

The cli-specs macro simplifies the creation of the <arg-spec> tuples. The <arg-spec> name field uniquely identifies a specification, and is used to retrieve parsed argument values and check constraints.

```
name: a string to identify the argument
short: a symbol of the form -x, where x is a single character, see below
long: a symbol of the form --x, where x is a string
type: see Figure 13.1
help: a string or list of strings that describes the argument
conflicts: a list of <arg-spec> names
requires: a list of <arg-spec> names
```

To specify  $\neg i$  or  $\neg I$  for *short*, use  $|\neg i|$  and  $|\neg I|$  respectively to prevent Chez Scheme from reading them as the complex number 0-1i.

Type	Result
bool	#t
count	a positive integer
(string $x$ )	a string
(list $x$ )	a list of one item
(list $x$ )	a list of one or more items up to the next argument
(list $x$ )	a list of the rest of the arguments

For each type where x is specified, x is a string that is used in the help display.

Figure 13.1: Command-line argument types

The list types can support multiple x arguments, for instance (list "i1" "i2") would specify a list of two arguments.

```
visibility \rightarrow \text{show}
\mid \text{hide}
\mid \text{fit}
```

When printing the help usage line, a *visibility* of **show** means the argument must be displayed. hide forces the argument to be hidden. fit displays the argument if it fits on the line.

```
egin{array}{ll} how 
ightarrow & 	ext{short} \ & | 	ext{long} \ & | 	ext{opt} \ & | 	ext{req} \end{array}
```

The how expands into input of the format-spec procedure according to Figure 13.2.

```
Keyword Expands into:
  short (opt (and short args))
  long (opt (and long args))
  opt (opt (and (or short long) args))
  req (req (and (or short long) args))
```

Figure 13.2: cli-specs how field

For options with *short* or *long* specified, **fit** and **opt** are the defaults. For other options, **show** and **req** are the defaults.

conflicts is a list of specification names that prevent this argument from processing correctly. When multiple command-line arguments are specified that are in conflict, an exception is raised.

requires is a list of other specification names that are necessary for this argument to be processed correctly. Unless all the required command-line arguments are specified, an exception is raised.

The conflicts, requires, and usage clauses may be specified in any order.

```
(display-help exe-name specs [args] [op]) procedure returns: unspecified
```

The display-help procedure is equivalent to calling display-usage with a prefix of "Usage:" followed by display-options.

```
(display-options specs [args] [op]) procedure returns: unspecified
```

For each specification in *specs*, the display-options procedure renders two columns of output to *op*, which defaults to the current output port. The first column renders the short and long form of the argument with its additional inputs. The second column renders the <arg-spec> help field and will automatically wrap if the help-wrap-width is exceeded.

If an *args* hash table is specified, the specified value appended to the second column. This is useful for displaying default or current values.

```
(display-usage prefix exe-name specs [width] [op]) procedure returns: unspecified
```

The display-usage procedure displays the first line of help output to op, which defaults to the current output port. It starts with prefix and exe-name then attempts to fit specs onto the line using format-spec. When the line will exceed width characters, some arguments may collapse to [options].

A width of #f defaults the line width to help-wrap-width.

(format-spec spec [how]) procedure

returns: a string

The format-spec procedure is responsible rendering *spec* as a string as specified by *how*. format-spec can display dashes in front of arguments, ellipses on list types, and brackets around optional arguments. A *how* of #f defaults to the <arg-spec> usage field.

how	Return value:							
short	"-x" if spec short is x, else #f							
long	"x" if spec long is x, else #f							
args	The <i>spec type</i> is evaluated as follows:							
	type	Return value:						
	bool	#f						
	count	#f						
	(string $x$ )	"x"						
	(list $x$ )	"x"						
	(list $x$ ) "x"							
	(list $x$ )	"x"						
(or $how \dots$ )	Recur and use the	ne first non-#f						
(and $how$ )	Recur and conca	tenate all non-#f values						
(opt $how$ )	Recur and surrou	and the result with square brackets []						
	if non-#f							
(req how)	Recur and use the	ne result						

help-wrap-width parameter

value: a positive fixnum

The help-wrap-width parameter specifies the default width for display-usage and display-options.

(parse-command-line-arguments specs [ls] [fail]) procedure returns: a procedure

The parse-command-line-arguments procedure processes the elements of ls from left to right in a single pass. As it scans each x in ls, the parser must find a suitable s within specs. If a suitable s cannot be found, the parser reports an error by calling fail. Based on the type of s, the parser may consume additional elements following x. The type of s determines what data the parser records for that argument. When s is satisfied, the parser continues scanning the remaining elements of ls.

The parser returns a procedure p that accepts zero or one argument. When called with no arguments, p returns a hash table that maps the name of each s found while processing ls to the data recorded for that argument. When called with the name of an element s in specs, p returns the data, if any, recorded for that name in the hash table or else #f. If a particular s was not found while processing ls, the internal hash table has no entry for the name of s and p returns #f when given that name. If called with a name that is not in specs, p raises an exception.

The following table summarizes the parser's behavior.

<arg-spec> type</arg-spec>	extra arguments consumed / recorded	return value of $(p name)$
bool	none	#t
count	none	an exact positive integer
(string $x$ )	one	a string
(list $x_0 \ldots x_n \ldots$ )	n or more, up to the next option	a list of strings
(list $x_0 \ldots x_n \cdot rest$ )	at least $n$ and all remaining	a list of strings

By default ls is the value of (command-line-arguments) and fail is a procedure that applies errorf to its arguments. Providing a fail procedure allows a developer to accumulate parsing errors without necessarily generating exceptions.

<arg-spec> tuple

name: a string to use as the key of the output hash table

type: see Figure 13.1
short: #f | a character
long: #f | a string

help: a string or list of strings describing argument

conflicts: a list of <arg-spec> names
requires: a list of <arg-spec> names

usage: a list containing one visibility symbol and a format-spec how expression

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