

## sem\_waiter.c

```
1  /*****
2  * Copyright (C) 2023 by Parth Thakkar
3  *
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5  * forms is permitted as long as the files maintain this copyright. Users are
6  * permitted to modify this and use it to learn about the field of embedded
7  * software. Parth Thakkar and the University of Colorado are not liable for
8  * any misuse of this material.
9  * *****/
10
11 /**
12  * @file    sem_waiter.c
13  * @brief   This program demonstrates the use of POSIX semaphores for inter-
14  *          process
15  *          communication and synchronization. It waits on a semaphore until it'
16  *          s
17  *          posted by another process, allowing for coordinated execution.
18  *          This could be used in scenarios where it's necessary to ensure that
19  *          certain resources are not accessed by multiple processes
20  *          simultaneously
21  *          or to synchronize the execution order of processes.
22  *
23  * @author  Parth Thakkar
24  */
25
26 #include <stdio.h>
27 #include <fcntl.h>    // For O_* constants
28 #include <sys/stat.h> // For mode constants
29 #include <semaphore.h>
30 #include <stdlib.h>
31 #include <unistd.h>
32
33 #define SEM_NAME "/semaphore_custom"
34
35 int main()
36 {
37     printf("Process with PID %d waiting on semaphore...\n", getpid());
38
39     // Open or create the semaphore
40     /*
41      * 0644 These are the permissions for the new semaphore if it is created.
42      * This is a octal number
43      * representing the semaphore's permissions in a Unix/Linux environment. The
44      * first digit is always
45      * zero, the second digit represents permissions for the owner (read and
46      * write), the third digit
47      * represents permissions for the owner's group (read), and the fourth digit
48      * represents permissions for
49      * others (read). This means the owner can read and modify the semaphore,
50      * while others can only read
51      * its value.
52      *
53      * O_CREAT: This flag indicates that the semaphore should be created if it
54      * does not already exist.
55      */
56 }
```

```
49     * sem_open can take multiple flags, combined using the bitwise OR operator
    (|), but in this case, only
50     * O_CREAT is used. Other flags could include O_EXCL, which, when used with
    O_CREAT, will make sem_open
51     * fail if the semaphore already exists, ensuring that the semaphore is
    newly created.
52     *
53     * 0: This is the initial value for the semaphore if it is being created. In
    this case, the semaphore is initialized to 0. This
54     * value can be used to control access to a resource by having threads or
    processes wait until the semaphore's value is greater
55     * than zero.
56     */
57     sem_t *sem = sem_open(SEM_NAME, O_CREAT, 0644, 0);
58     if (sem == SEM_FAILED)
59     {
60         perror("sem_open failed");
61         exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
62     }
63
64     // Wait on the semaphore
65     if (sem_wait(sem) < 0)
66     {
67         perror("sem_wait failed");
68         exit(EXIT_FAILURE);
69     }
70
71     printf("Semaphore posted, process %d continuing...\n", getpid());
72     // Close the semaphore to release resources. This does not remove the
    semaphore,
73     // but it detaches it from the process that called sem_close.
74     sem_close(sem);
75
76     // Unlink the semaphore, removing its name from the system. This is
    necessary
77     // to clean up and ensure that the semaphore does not persist after all
78     // processes using it have terminated.
79     sem_unlink(SEM_NAME);
80
81     return EXIT_SUCCESS;
82 }
```