



# Great Experiences with PiP (Proecss-in-Process)

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# Preface

## Motivation

I retired from my work from April 2022. Since then, I wrote this PiP tutorial while I am maintaining PiP library (<https://github.com/procinproc> including this document).

PiP provides a unique and new execution model. While I am maintaining the PiP library, I have been facing many issues caused by the current Glibc and Linux that are not aware of this new execution model. I hope the new execution model which PiP provides would play an important role in computer science in the future, and I will continue maintaining the PiP library until then.

Thinking the fact of that Glibc and Linux changing much more frequently than PiP because of man-power, I am not confident with adapting PiP with the upcoming Glibc and Linux. So, I decided to write this document to leave my ideas.

This is the reason why this can not only be a tutorial for using PiP, but also a internal document.

## Expected Readers

I tried to have example programs in this document as much as possible. Most of them are written in C. The current PiP library are tested to run on Linux (CentOS and Redhat, version 7 and 8). So readers must be familiar with C programming and Linux.

## Other Documents

This document will not explain all functions provided by the PiP library. For this purpose, consult PiP reference manual (PDF file: <https://github.com/procinproc/PiP/blob/pip-2/doc/latex-inuse/libpip-manpages.pdf>, HTML document and/or man pages (HTML document and man pages will be installed with PiP library).

## Sample Programs

All sample programs were tested to run and all the output examples are obtained by running the sample programs on a Docker environment running on Mac OSX.

## English

To my shame, supposedly many readers noticed already by this point, my English is quite poor. I would appreciate it if some of you would help me to improve the readability of this document (and other documents such as man page). If this is the case, send me an e-mail ([procinproc-info@googlegroups.com](mailto:procinproc-info@googlegroups.com) or [ahori@me.com](mailto:ahori@me.com)) and I will give you the access right of the Github (<https://github.com/procinproc>).

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>PiP Basics</b>	<b>12</b>
1.1	PiP Tasks	12
1.1.1	pipcc and pip-exec Commands	12
1.1.2	Comparing MPI, OpenMP and PiP	13
1.1.3	Export and Import	15
1.2	Spawning PiP Tasks and Waiting Terminations	17
1.2.1	Spawning PiP tasks	17
1.2.2	Waiting for Terminations of PiP tasks	22
1.2.3	Terminating PiP tasks	24
1.3	Timing Synchronization among PiP Tasks	25
1.3.1	Barrier Synchronization	25
1.3.2	Using PThread Synchronization	26
1.3.3	pthread_barrier	27
1.3.4	pthread_mutex	28
1.4	PiP Commands	29
1.4.1	pip-man	29
1.4.2	pipcc and pipfc	29
1.4.3	pip-exec	30
1.4.4	pips	31
1.4.5	pip-gdb	31
1.4.6	pip-mode and printpipmode	32
1.4.7	libpip.so	32
1.5	Summary	32
1.6	Myths on PiP	33
<b>2</b>	<b>PiP Advanced</b>	<b>36</b>
2.1	Rationale	36
2.2	Issues related to Linux Kernel, Glibc and Tools	37
2.2.1	Loading a Program	37
2.2.2	Glibc	37
2.2.3	Glibc RPATH Setting	42
2.2.4	Linux	42
2.2.5	Tools	44

2.3	Execution Mode . . . . .	45
2.3.1	Differences Between Two Modes . . . . .	45
2.3.2	How to Specify Execution Mode . . . . .	46
2.4	Spawning Tasks - Advanced . . . . .	46
2.4.1	Start Function . . . . .	47
2.4.2	Stack Size . . . . .	47
2.4.3	CPU Core Binding . . . . .	48
2.4.4	File Descriptors and Spawn Hooks . . . . .	48
2.5	Execution Context . . . . .	50
2.6	Debugging Support . . . . .	52
2.6.1	PIP_STOP_ON_START . . . . .	52
2.6.2	PIP_GDB_SIGNALS . . . . .	53
2.6.3	PIP_SHOW_MAPS . . . . .	54
2.6.4	PIP_SHOW_PIPS . . . . .	54
2.6.5	PIP_GDB_PATH and PIP_GDB_COMMAND . . . . .	54
2.7	Malloc routines . . . . .	54
2.8	XPMEM . . . . .	55
<b>3</b>	<b>PiP Internals</b>	<b>56</b>
3.1	PiP Implementation . . . . .	56
3.1.1	Spawning Tasks . . . . .	56
3.1.2	Calling <code>clone()</code> System Call . . . . .	57
3.1.3	Execution Mode in Details . . . . .	58
3.1.4	Name of PiP Tasks . . . . .	58
3.2	Remaining Issues . . . . .	59
3.2.1	Retrieving Memory . . . . .	59
<b>4</b>	<b>PiP Installation</b>	<b>60</b>
4.1	Building from Source Code . . . . .	60
4.2	<b>pip-pip command</b> . . . . .	61
4.3	Using Spack . . . . .	62

# List of Figures

1.1	Differences of OpenMP, MPI and PiP . . . . .	15
2.1	Cross-Malloc-Free Issue . . . . .	55
2.2	Cross-Malloc-Free with Freeing List . . . . .	55

# List of Tables

2.1	Glibc functions wrapped by PiP library . . . . .	39
2.2	Compatibility of Tools . . . . .	45
2.3	Differences between two modes . . . . .	45
2.4	Mode-Agnostic Functions . . . . .	46
2.5	Execution Mode Predicates . . . . .	46
2.6	Possible Signal Names for <b>PIP_GDB_SIGNALS</b> . . . . .	53
3.1	Command Name Setting (1st char.) . . . . .	58
3.2	Command Name Setting (Second char.) . . . . .	59

# Listings

1.1	Hello World . . . . .	12
1.2	Hello World - Compile and Execute . . . . .	12
1.3	Hello World having a static variable . . . . .	13
1.4	Hello World with a static variable - Compile and Execute . .	13
1.5	Hello World in OpenMP . . . . .	14
1.6	Hello World in OpenMP, PiP and MPI - Compile and Execute	14
1.7	Export and Import ( <b>export-import</b> ) . . . . .	16
1.8	Execution of Export and Import . . . . .	16
1.9	Spawn ( <b>spawn-root</b> ) . . . . .	18
1.10	Spawn ( <b>spawn-task</b> ) . . . . .	18
1.11	Spawn - Execution . . . . .	18
1.12	Spawn Myself ( <b>spawn-myself</b> ) . . . . .	19
1.13	Spawn Myself - Execution . . . . .	19
1.14	Starting from user-defined function ( <b>userfunc</b> ) . . . . .	20
1.15	Starting from user-defined function - Execution . . . . .	21
1.16	Starting from main function ( <b>mainfunc</b> ) . . . . .	21
1.17	Starting from main function - Execution . . . . .	22
1.18	Waiting for specified PiP task terminations ( <b>wait</b> ) . . . . .	22
1.19	Waiting for specified PiP task terminations - Execution . . .	23
1.20	Waiting for any PiP task terminations ( <b>waitany</b> ) . . . . .	23
1.21	Waiting for any PiP task terminations - Execution . . . . .	24
1.22	PiP Task Termination function ( <b>exit</b> ) . . . . .	24
1.23	PiP Task Termination - Execution . . . . .	25
1.24	Barrier Synchronization ( <b>barrier</b> ) . . . . .	25
1.25	Barrier Synchronization - Execution . . . . .	26
1.26	Pthread Barrier ( <b>pthread-barrier</b> ) . . . . .	27
1.27	Pthread Barrier - Execution . . . . .	27
1.28	Pthread Mutex ( <b>pthread-mutex</b> ) . . . . .	28
1.29	Pthread Mutex - Execution . . . . .	29
1.30	<b>pip-check</b> - Execution Example . . . . .	30
1.31	<b>pip-exec</b> - Execution Example . . . . .	30
1.32	<b>libpip.so</b> - Execution Example . . . . .	32
2.1	<b>.interp</b> Section of the <b>ps</b> command . . . . .	37
2.2	Constructors and Destructors . . . . .	40



2.3	Constructors and Destructors - Execution . . . . .	41
2.4	A Memory Map Example . . . . .	42
2.5	Before and After Hooks . . . . .	48
2.6	Before and After Hooks - Execution . . . . .	50
2.7	Function Call of Another Task . . . . .	50
2.8	Function Call of Another Task - Execution . . . . .	51
2.9	Stop-on-start Script Example . . . . .	52
2.10	Stop-on-start Script Example - Execution . . . . .	53
4.1	Building from Source Code . . . . .	61
4.2	PiP-pip installation example . . . . .	61
4.3	Spack installation example . . . . .	62

# Acknowledgment

The predecessor of PiP is PVAS (Partitioned Virtual Address Space) developed by Akio Shimada. The idea of using PIE was his idea. Pavan Balaji has a great insight and he saw through the possibilities of PVAS at the first time Akio and I had a meeting with him. He also gave me some great ideas when developing PiP. The name of PiP was his recommendation. Min Si devoted her lots of time to help me writing PiP papers. Kaiming Ouyang wrote great papers to improve MPICH performance by using PiP. Yutaka Ishikawa allowed me to devote most of my time for developing PiP. Balazs Gerofi also gave me some useful comments on PiP. Noriyuki Soda helped me a lot while developing PiP and he developed the Github actions for testing PiP.

Finally, I thank to my wife, Fusa Hori, allowing me to devote my time for writing this book.

# Introduction

This is a book explaining Process-in-Process (PiP in short) library. This somewhat strange name library is to provide a relatively new execution model to have the best of two world; multi-process and multi-thread execution models.

It becomes quite common to have multiple CPU cores in a CPU socket or die, parallel execution environment also becomes very crucial for efficiency. In the multi-process model, where multiple processes run on a socket, a process cannot directly access data owned by the other processes, in spite of the fact accessing the same physical memory device. In most cases, processes exchange information via some form of communication. In my personal understanding, communication is accompanied with some form of data copying, regardless done by software or hardware. Data copying consumes memory, time and power and it must be avoided as much as possible. What if processes can access data owned by the others? In multi-thread model, threads share the static variables and they must be protected from race conditions if threads try to update their contents. What if each thread has its own static variable set?

This is my motivation to develop PiP. The name of *Process-in-Process* may suggests, a process can create another processes inside of the address space of the creating process. This sounds like the multi-thread execution model, however, the name of *process* in PiP means that each created processes have its own static variable set unlike the multi-thread model. Thus, the created processes share the same address space can access data owned by the others while maintaining the privatized static variables. This way can avoid the data copying accompanied by communication.

Basically, multi-process model shares nothing, multi-thread model shares everything, and everything is sharable in the execution model PiP provides.

With my regards to some predecessors, there are some other implementations providing this kind of execution model. However, PiP is quite unique since it is implemented purely at the user-level, no need of new or patched OS kernel, nor having new language processing systems.

I have been working on high performance computing (HPC) and very little knowledge on the other fields. I can only imagine HPC applications. However, I believe that the easy-to-use nature of PiP can be applied to other

fields.

# Chapter 1

## PiP Basics

Let me start describing the PiP basics for those who are not familiar with PiP; 1) how to run a PiP program, 2) How to write a PiP program, and 3) usage of PiP commands. The explanations in this chapter does not go into details. For more details, refer to the Chapter 2 and/or the other documents (man pages and PDF).

### 1.1 PiP Tasks

This section will describe how PiP tasks are created in a simple way and how PiP tasks works in the different way from the process (using MPI) and thread (using OpenMP) creations.

#### 1.1.1 pipcc and pip-exec Commands

The first example is the well-known C program “hello world” listed below;

Listing 1.1: Hello World

---

```
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    printf( "Hello World\n" );
    return 0;
}
```

---

As you can see, this program is exactly the same with the normal C program. If this program is compiled with the **pipcc** command, then this program can run as a normal C program or as a PiP task by using the **pip-exec** command.

Listing 1.2: Hello World - Compile and Execute

---

```
$ pipcc --silent hello.c -o hello
$ ./hello
Hello World
```

---

```
$ pip-exec ./hello
Hello World
$
```

The **pipcc** command is written as a shell script to call a real C compiler with appropriate options, such as **-I**, **-L** and so on. If the **--silent** option is omitted, then you will see the options how **pipcc** script calls the backend C/C++ compiler.

The **pip-exec** command in this example is to execute an executable file as PiP tasks, not as a normal Linux process.

This example does not show how the hello program behaves differently between the process and PiP task. The next section will discuss on this point.

### 1.1.2 Comparing MPI, OpenMP and PiP

To explain the difference between process and PiP task, we slightly modify the “hello world” program as below;

Listing 1.3: Hello World having a static variable

```
#include <stdio.h>
int x;
int main() {
    printf( "Hello World (&x:%p)\n", &x );
    return 0;
}
```

Now the “Hello World” program has a static variable **x** and its address is printed out with the “Hello World” message. The **pip-exec** command may take an option to specify the number of PiP tasks to be created and executed in parallel. In the following execution example, the number of three (3) is specified. Additionally, the output of the same **a.out** execution using MPI. It should be noted that the “Hello World” program runs in parallel with **pip-exec** and **mpiexec**.

Listing 1.4: Hello World with a static variable - Compile and Execute

```
$ pipcc --silent hello-var.c -o hello-var
$ ./hello-var
Hello World (&x:0x555555601030)
$ pip-exec -n 3 ./hello-var
Hello World (&x:0x7ffff67d9030)
Hello World (&x:0x7ffff48db030)
Hello World (&x:0x7fffee92c030)
$ mpiexec -n 3 ./hello-var
sh: mpiexec: command not found
$
```

The first execution of `a.out` shows that the variable `x` is located at the address of `0x555555601030`<sup>1</sup>. This situation is the same with the MPI execution<sup>2</sup>. However, the locations of the variable `x` executed as PiP tasks are all different. This is because PiP tasks share the same address space but MPI does not. Readers may notice that threads also share the same address space and wonder the difference between PiP and OpenMP. The example below is the OpenMP version of the “Hello World” with a static variable.

Listing 1.5: Hello World in OpenMP

---

```
#include <stdio.h>
int x;
int main() {
    #pragma omp parallel
    printf( "Hello World (&x:%p)\n", &x );
    return 0;
}
```

---

The execution output of program 1.5 is shown below. Here, the addresses of variable `x` are the same in OpenMP and MPI executions. However, the addresses of the variable with PiP execution are different pairs.

Listing 1.6: Hello World in OpenMP, PiP and MPI - Compile and Execute

```
$ pipcc --silent -fopenmp hello-var-omp.c -o hello-var-omp
$ export OMP_NUM_THREADS=2
$ ./hello-var-omp
Hello World (&x:0x555555601038)
Hello World (&x:0x555555601038)
$ pip-exec -n 2 ./hello-var-omp
Hello World (&x:0x7ffff67d9038)
Hello World (&x:0x7ffff67d9038)
Hello World (&x:0x7ffff6de3038)
Hello World (&x:0x7ffff6de3038)
$ mpiexec -n 2 ./hello-var-omp
sh: mpiexec: command not found
$
```

Figure 1.1 explains these differences. In OpenMP, the OpenMP threads share the same address space and variable `x` is shared among threads. In MPI, each MPI process has its own address space and two (2) threads run in each address space and share the variable in the same MPI process. In PiP, all PiP tasks share the same address space, however, each PiP task has its own variables and thread 0 and 1 share the variable in the same PiP task, but not sharing the variables in the different PiP task (Figure 1.1).

---

<sup>1</sup>For simplicity, we disabled ASLR (Address Space Layout Randomization) in this example.

<sup>2</sup>MPICH implementation where each MPI rank has its own address space.

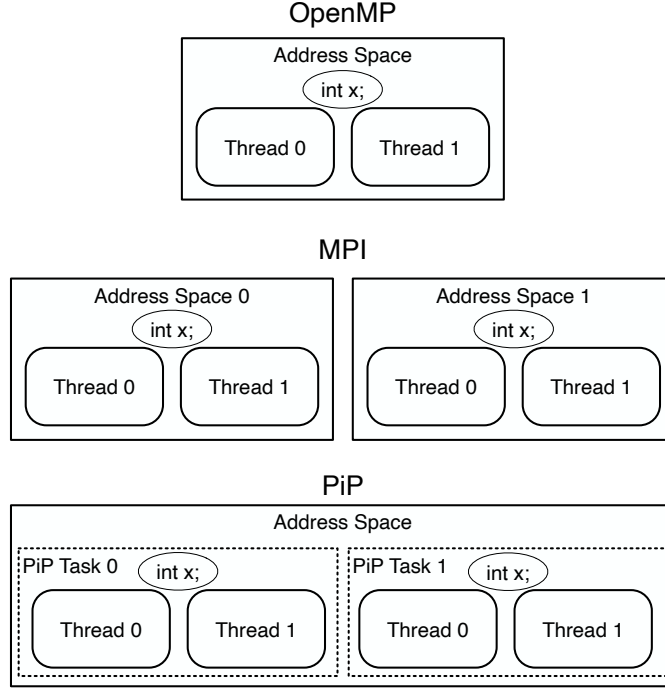


Figure 1.1: Differences of OpenMP, MPI and PiP

In the conventional process model and thread model, static variables are associated with an address space. Thus, each process has its own static variables and threads running on the same address space share the same static variables. In the PiP execution model, each PiP task is guaranteed to have its own static variable set, decoupling from the address space while maintaining the address space sharing. This is called **variable privatization**.

This nature of PiP, privatized variables and sharing an address space, makes it easy to exchange information among PiP tasks while maintaining the independence of each PiP task execution. So far, it is shown that the “Hello World” program can run as PiP tasks in parallel, but this program is so simple and no information exchange among PiP tasks. In the next section, we will show how information can be exchanged among PiP tasks.

### 1.1.3 Export and Import

Sharing an address space means that data owned by a PiP task can be accessed if the address of the information to be exchanged is known. A PiP task can publish the address of the data to be shared and the other PiP task(s) can get the published address.

Firstly, each PiP task has **PIPID** to distinguish from the others. A PiP task can export an address so that the other PiP tasks sharing the



same address space can import the address by specifying the **PIPID** who exported.

Listing 1.7: Export and Import (export-import)

---

```
#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int x;
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, *xp;
    pip_get_pipid( &pipid );
    if( pipid == 0 ) {
        x = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
        pip_named_export( &x, "export" );
    } else {
        pip_named_import( 0, (void**) &xp, "export" );
        printf( "%d: %d\n", pipid, *xp );
    }
    return 0;
}
```

---

In this program, a PiP task having **PIPID** of zero (0) export the address of the variable `x` by calling `pip_named_export()` after setting the value of `argv[1]`. The other PiP tasks import the exported address by the PiP task 0 by calling `pip_named_import()` function. Below is an execution result of this program. As shown, the exported value by PiP task 0 can be seen by the other PiP tasks.

Listing 1.8: Execution of Export and Import

```
$ pip-exec -n 4 ./export-import 1234
1: 1234
2: 1234
3: 1234
$ pip-exec -n 4 ./export-import 18526
1: 18526
2: 18526
3: 18526
$
```

The `pip_named_export()` function publishes an address with the given name. The `pip_named_import()` function blocking-waits until the named address on the specified PiP task by **PIPID**. It is not allowed to export an address having the same name twice or more to update the address, because this leads to a race condition.

Almost all functions provided by the PiP library return an integer value as an error code. The return code of zero (0) means success. This error code is the same with the ones defined by Linux. In the examples so far and hereinafter, the returned code is not checked because of simplicity and readability.

In MPI, it is not allowed to access the data owned by the other processes in the same node. Communication is the only way allowed in MPI<sup>3</sup>. Basically, communication involves some form of data copying (done by software or hardware). Data copying consumes time, power and memory.

## 1.2 Spawning PiP Tasks and Waiting Terminations

The `pip-exec` command spawns PiP tasks. The process which spawns PiP tasks is called **(PiP) root** process. The `pip-exec` process is a PiP root process. PiP tasks spawned by the root process are mapped and executed in the address space of the root. In this chapter, how to spawn PiP tasks will be explained.

### 1.2.1 Spawning PiP tasks

#### Spawning a program as PiP tasks

Listing 1.9 is an example of a PiP root program. It spawns  $N$  PiP tasks, where  $N$  is specified by the first parameter of the program. The `pip_init()` function must be called to initialize the PiP library before calling any other PiP functions, although there are some exceptions to this. The `pip_init()` may look strange because this function behaves differently depending on if it is called from a PiP root or PiP task. The first argument is output returning **PIPID** of the calling task. The second input argument is to specify the maximum number of spawning PiP tasks. This second argument becomes output if this is called by a PiP task, returning the number specified by the root. The `pip_fin()` function works as the opposite of `pip_init()`, finalizing PiP library and freeing allocated resources. After calling `pip_fin()`, most PiP library functions return an error code (EPERM).

The `pip_spawn()` function is called after then. The first and second arguments are the same with the Linux's `execve()` function; the first is to specify the executable file to be executed and the second argument is to specify the parameters executing the program. The third is to specify environment variables. When it is NULL, then value of the Glibc global variable `environ` is taken. The fourth argument is to specify the CPU core number to bind the spawned PiP task and which CPU core. In this example, the value of **PIP\_CPUCORE\_ASIS** means that the (CPU) core-bind should be the same with the one when calling `pip_spawn()`. The fifth is an input

---

<sup>3</sup>Strictly speaking, some MPI implementations based on the thread model may allow this. Major MPI implementation, such as MPICH, Open MPI, and many other MPI implementations provided by vendors are based on the process model and there is no way to access data owned by the other MPI process.

and output argument and you can specify **PIPID** or set to **PIP\_PIPID\_ANY** so that PiP library can choose any. After calling **pip\_spawn()**, the argument returns the actual **PIPID**.

Listing 1.9: Spawn (spawn-root)

---

```
#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, NULL, 0 );
    for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
        pipid_task = PIP_PIPID_ANY;
        pip_spawn( argv[2], &argv[2], NULL,
                  PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS, &pipid_task,
                  NULL, NULL, NULL );
        pip_wait( pipid_task, NULL );
        printf( "PiP task (PIPID:%d) done\n",
               pipid_task );
    }
    pip_fin();
    return 0;
}
```

---

Listing 1.10 is very similar to the “Hello World” program in the previous section. The major difference here is calling the **pip\_init()** function. Unlike root, this function call is optional in the PiP task program. By calling this, you can get **PIPID** and the number of maximum PiP tasks which are specified by the root. Listing 1.11 shows an example of the execution of Listing 1.9 and 1.10.

Listing 1.10: Spawn (spawn-task)

---

```
#include <pip/pip.h>
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks;
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, NULL, 0 );
    printf( "\"%s\" from PIPID:%d/%d\n",
           argv[1], pipid, ntasks );
    pip_fin();
    return 0;
}
```

---

Listing 1.11: Spawn - Execution

<pre>\$ ./spawn-root 4 ./spawn-task "What's up?" "What's up?" from PIPID:0/4 "What's up?" from PIPID:1/4 "What's up?" from PIPID:2/4</pre>
--

```

"What's up?" from PIPID:3/4
PiP task (PIPID:0) done
PiP task (PIPID:1) done
PiP task (PIPID:2) done
PiP task (PIPID:3) done
$

```

## Spawning myself

A program can be both or either PiP root and PiP task. Listing 1.12 shows an example of combining the programs of Listing 1.9 and 1.10. We hope you can understand the strange behavior of `pip_init()` function. The PiP root process also acts like a PiP task. It has a special PIPID, `PIP_PIPID_ROOT`. Listing 1.13 shows the example of this execution.

Listing 1.12: Spawn Myself (`spawn-myself`)

```

#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, NULL, 0 );
    if( pipid == PIP_PIPID_ROOT ) {
        /* PiP root */
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pipid_task = i;
            pip_spawn( argv[0], argv, NULL,
                      PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS, &pipid_task,
                      NULL, NULL, NULL );
            pip_wait( pipid_task, NULL );
            printf( "PiP task (PIPID:%d) done\n",
                   pipid_task );
        }
    } else {
        /* PiP task */
        printf( "\"%s\" from PIPID:%d/%d\n",
               argv[2], pipid, ntasks );
    }
    pip_fin();
    return 0;
}

```

Listing 1.13: Spawn Myself - Execution

```

$ ./spawn-myself 4 "Learning PiP."
"Learning PiP." from PIPID:0/4
"Learning PiP." from PIPID:1/4
"Learning PiP." from PIPID:2/4

```

```

"Learning PiP." from PIPID:3/4
PiP task (PIPID:0) done
PiP task (PIPID:1) done
PiP task (PIPID:2) done
PiP task (PIPID:3) done
$

```

## Starting from other than main

PiP tasks start from the `main()` function in the examples so far. PiP allows for PiP tasks to start user-defined function other than `main()`. In this case, use the [pip\\_task\\_spawn\(\)](#) function instead of calling the [pip\\_spawn\(\)](#) function.

Listing 1.14: Starting from user-defined function (`userfunc`)

---

```

#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int user_func( void *arg ) {
    char *msg = (char*) arg;
    int pipid, ntasks;
    pip_get_pipid( &pipid );
    pip_get_ntasks( &ntasks );
    printf( "USER-FUNC: \"%s\" from PIPID:%d/%d\n",
           msg, pipid, ntasks );
    return 0;
}

int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, NULL, 0 );
    if( pipid == PIP_PIPID_ROOT ) {
        pip_spawn_program_t prog;
        pip_spawn_from_func( &prog,
                             argv[0],      /* exec file */
                             "user_func",  /* func name */
                             (void*) argv[2], /* arg */
                             NULL,          /* environ */
                             NULL ); /* explained later */
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pipid_task = i;
            pip_task_spawn( &prog, PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS, 0,
                           &pipid_task, NULL );
            pip_wait( pipid_task, NULL );
        }
    } else {
        /* NEVER REACH HERE */
        printf( "MAIN: \"%s\" from PIPID:%d/%d\n",

```

```

        argv[2], pipid, ntasks );
    }
    pip_fin();
    return 0;
}

```

Listing 1.14 is the program of this example. To decrease the number of arguments to spawn a PiP task, the `pip_spawn_program_t` structure is defined. This structure holds all information for spawning a program, including path to executable file, function name, and so on. To hide the details of the structure, `pip_spawn_from_func()` function is also defined to set these information. The user-defined function must have one argument (`void*`) and return an integer value which is the same as the return value from the `main()` function.

Listing 1.15: Starting from user-defined function - Execution

```

$ ./userfunc 4 "Calling user_func"
USER-FUNC: "Calling user_func" from PIPID:0/4
USER-FUNC: "Calling user_func" from PIPID:1/4
USER-FUNC: "Calling user_func" from PIPID:2/4
USER-FUNC: "Calling user_func" from PIPID:3/4
$

```

The `pip_spawn()` was firstly introduced (from version 1). After then, I noticed users can start PiP tasks other than main, and the `pip_task_spawn()` function was introduced (from version 2 or later). The `pip_spawn_program_t` structure must be set by calling the `pip_spawn_from_main()` function when starting from the `main()` function. Listing 1.16 is the program rewritten version of Listing 1.12 by using the `pip_task_spawn()` and `pip_spawn_from_main()`.

Listing 1.16: Starting from main function (mainfunc)

```

#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, NULL, 0 );
    if( pipid == PIP_PIPID_ROOT ) {
        pip_spawn_program_t prog;
        pip_spawn_from_main( &prog,
                            argv[0],      /* exec file */
                            argv,          /* argv */
                            NULL,          /* environ */
                            NULL ); /* explained later */
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pipid_task = i;
            pip_task_spawn( &prog, PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS, 0,

```

```

        &pipid_task, NULL );
    pip_wait( pipid_task, NULL );
}
} else {
    printf( "MAIN: \"%s\" from PIPID:%d/%d\n",
            argv[2], pipid, ntasks );
}
pip_fin();
return 0;
}

```

Listing 1.17: Starting from main function - Execution

```

$ ./mainfunc 4 "Calling main"
MAIN: "Calling main" from PIPID:0/4
MAIN: "Calling main" from PIPID:1/4
MAIN: "Calling main" from PIPID:2/4
MAIN: "Calling main" from PIPID:3/4
$

```

### 1.2.2 Waiting for Terminations of PiP tasks

As readers may have already noticed, the `pip_wait()` is the function to wait for terminations of the spawned PiP tasks. The `pip_wait()` function acts like the Linux's `wait()` function. In many cases, Linux's `wait()` function works with PiP tasks, but there is a certain case it does not. So, it is recommended for users to use `pip_wait()` function.

The argument of the `pip_wait()` is the pointer to an integer variable, the same with the Linux's `wait()` call. The returned integer can be examined by using the Linux's `WIFEXITED`, `WIFSIGNALED`, `WEXITSTATUS`, `WIFSIGNALED`, and `WTERMSIG` macros.

Listing 1.18: Waiting for specified PiP task terminations (`wait`)

```

#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i, exitval = 0;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, NULL, 0 );
    if( pipid == PIP_PIPID_ROOT ) {
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            int status;
            pipid_task = i;
            pip_spawn( argv[0], argv, NULL,
                      PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS, &pipid_task,
                      NULL, NULL, NULL );
            pip_wait( pipid_task, &status );

```

```

        printf( "PiP task (PIPID:%d) done: %d\n",
                pipid_task, WEXITSTATUS(status) );
    }
} else {
    exitval = pipid;
}
pip_fin();
return exitval;
}

```

---

Listing 1.19: Waiting for specified PiP task terminations - Execution

```

$ ./wait 4
PiP task (PIPID:0) done: 0
PiP task (PIPID:1) done: 1
PiP task (PIPID:2) done: 2
PiP task (PIPID:3) done: 3
$

```

**pip\_wait()** waits for the PiP task termination specified by **PIPID**. **pip\_wait\_any()** function can wait for any PiP tasks and **PIPID** and exit status are returned when terminated (See Listing 1.20 and 1.21). **pip\_trywait()** and **pip\_trywait\_any()** are the non-blocking versions of **pip\_wait()** and **pip\_wait\_any()**, respectively.

Listing 1.20: Waiting for any PiP task terminations (**waitany**)

```

#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i, exitval = 0;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, NULL, 0 );
    if( pipid == PIP_PIPID_ROOT ) {
        int status;
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pipid_task = i;
            pip_spawn( argv[0], argv, NULL,
                       PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS, &pipid_task,
                       NULL, NULL, NULL );
        }
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pip_wait_any( &pipid_task, &status );
            printf( "PiP task (PIPID:%d) done: %d\n",
                    pipid_task, WEXITSTATUS(status) );
        }
    } else {
        exitval = pipid;
    }
    pip_fin();
}

```



```
    return exitval;
}
```

---

Listing 1.21: Waiting for any PiP task terminations - Execution

```
$ ./waitany 4
PiP task (PIPID:0) done: 0
PiP task (PIPID:1) done: 1
PiP task (PIPID:2) done: 2
PiP task (PIPID:3) done: 3
$
```

### 1.2.3 Terminating PiP tasks

PiP tasks and root can terminate their executions by calling `pip_exit()` function. This function acts like the Linux's `exit()` function. As described above, it is recommended to use `pip_exit()` instead of `exit()`, because the Linux's `exit()` function works in most cases, however, there is a case it does not. Listing 1.22 and 1.23 show the example showing how `pip_exit()` works.

Listing 1.22: PiP Task Termination function (`exit`)

```
#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i, exitval = 0;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, NULL, 0 );
    if( pipid == PIP_PIPID_ROOT ) {
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            int status;
            pipid_task = i;
            pip_spawn( argv[0], argv, NULL,
                      PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS, &pipid_task,
                      NULL, NULL, NULL );
            pip_wait( pipid_task, &status );
            printf( "PiP task (PIPID:%d) done: %d\n",
                    pipid_task, WEXITSTATUS(status) );
        }
        pip_exit( 100 );
        /* NEVER REACH HERE */
    } else {
        exitval = pipid * 10;
        pip_exit( exitval );
        /* NEVER REACH HERE */
    }
}
```

---

Listing 1.23: PiP Task Termination - Execution

```
$ ./exit 4; echo $?
PiP task (PIPID:0) done: 0
PiP task (PIPID:1) done: 10
PiP task (PIPID:2) done: 20
PiP task (PIPID:3) done: 30
100
$
```

## 1.3 Timing Synchronization among PiP Tasks

This section will explain about the timing synchronization among PiP tasks.

### 1.3.1 Barrier Synchronization

Currently, there is only one synchronization method is supported by the PiP library, it is barrier synchronization. The API of PiP's barrier synchronization is borrowed from the one found in the PThread library. There are three functions in PiP, [pip\\_barrier\\_init\(\)](#), [pip\\_barrier\\_wait\(\)](#), and [pip\\_barrier\\_fin\(\)](#), corresponding to `pthread_barrier_init()`, `pthread_barrier_wait()` and `pthread_barrier_destroy()`, respectively.

Listing 1.24: Barrier Synchronization (barrier)

```
#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
pip_barrier_t barr;
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i;
    pip_barrier_t *barrp = &barr;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, (void**) &barrp, 0 );
    if( pipid == PIP_PIPID_ROOT ) {
        pip_barrier_init( barrp, ntasks );
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pipid_task = i;
            pip_spawn( argv[0], argv, NULL,
                      PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS, &pipid_task,
                      NULL, NULL, NULL );
        }
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pip_wait_any( &pipid_task, NULL );
            printf( "PiP task (PIPID:%d) done\n", pipid_task );
        }
        pip_barrier_fin( barrp );
    } else {
        if( argv[2] == NULL ) {
```

```

        pip_barrier_wait( barrp );
    }
    printf( "PIPID:%d %f [S]\n", pipid, pip_gettime() );
}
return 0;
}

```

In Listing 1.24, the `pip_init()` function is given a new non-NULL value to the third argument. This is another form of exporting a pointer from the root to spawned PiP tasks. In this example, the address of the `pip_barrier_t` static variable is passed to children so that the children can synchronize by calling `pip_barrier_wait()`.

To clarify the effect of the barrier synchronization, the synchronization takes place only when the second parameter of the program execution is not given, and then the return values of `pip_gettime()` are shown by PiP tasks. The `pip_gettime()` returns the current value of `gettimeofday()` in double format with the unit of seconds.

The example of running of this program is shown in Listing 1.25. In the first run, the barrier synchronization does not take place and large variance can be seen on the `gettimeofday()` values. In the second run, where the barrier synchronization takes place, and smaller variance can be seen.

Listing 1.25: Barrier Synchronization - Execution

```

$ ./barrier 4 NOBARRIER
PIPID:0 1659860090.609967 [S]
PIPID:1 1659860090.617321 [S]
PIPID:2 1659860090.623139 [S]
PIPID:3 1659860090.628415 [S]
PiP task (PIPID:0) done
PiP task (PIPID:1) done
PiP task (PIPID:2) done
PiP task (PIPID:3) done
$ ./barrier 4
PIPID:3 1659860090.673667 [S]
PIPID:0 1659860090.673611 [S]
PIPID:1 1659860090.673658 [S]
PIPID:2 1659860090.673692 [S]
PiP task (PIPID:0) done
PiP task (PIPID:1) done
PiP task (PIPID:3) done
PiP task (PIPID:2) done
$

```

### 1.3.2 Using PThread Synchronization

Users can utilize the synchronization functions on PiP tasks provided by the PThread library. This is simply because PiP tasks share the same address

space, just like threads.

### 1.3.3 pthread\_barrier

The same barrier synchronization can also be implemented by using the `pthread_barrier` functions. Listing 1.26 is the program simply replacing `pip_barrier` functions with the `pthread_barrier` functions.

Listing 1.26: Pthread Barrier (`pthread-barrier`)

---

```
#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <pthread.h>
pthread_barrier_t barr;
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i;
    pthread_barrier_t *barrp = &barr;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, (void**) &barrp, 0 );
    if( pipid == PIP_PIPID_ROOT ) {
        pthread_barrier_init( barrp, NULL, ntasks );
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pipid_task = i;
            pip_spawn( argv[0], argv, NULL,
                      PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS, &pipid_task,
                      NULL, NULL, NULL );
        }
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pip_wait_any( &pipid_task, NULL );
            printf( "PiP task (PIPID:%d) done\n", pipid_task );
        }
        pthread_barrier_destroy( barrp );
    } else {
        if( argv[2] == NULL ) {
            pthread_barrier_wait( barrp );
        }
        printf( "PIPID:%d %f [S]\n", pipid, pip_gettime() );
    }
    return 0;
}
```

---

Listing 1.27: Pthread Barrier - Execution

<pre>\$ ./pthread-barrier 4 NOBARRIER PIPID:0 1659860090.936633 [S] PIPID:1 1659860090.941742 [S] PIPID:2 1659860090.948617 [S] PIPID:3 1659860090.955064 [S] PiP task (PIPID:0) done PiP task (PIPID:1) done</pre>
---

```

PiP task (PIPID:2) done
PiP task (PIPID:3) done
$ ./pthread-barrier 4
PIPID:0 1659860090.996701 [S]
PIPID:2 1659860090.996710 [S]
PIPID:3 1659860090.996747 [S]
PIPID:1 1659860090.996857 [S]
PiP task (PIPID:0) done
PiP task (PIPID:2) done
PiP task (PIPID:3) done
PiP task (PIPID:1) done
$

```

### 1.3.4 pthread\_mutex

Similarly, `pthread_mutex` also works with PiP.

Listing 1.28: Pthread Mutex (`pthread-mutex`)

---

```

#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <pthread.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#define NITERS (1000)
typedef struct sync_tasks {
    pthread_barrier_t    barr;
    pthread_mutex_t      mutex;
    int                  count;
} sync_t;
sync_t sync_tasks;
int lock;
void increment( sync_t *syncp ) {
    int tmp;
    if( lock ) pthread_mutex_lock( &syncp->mutex );
    tmp = syncp->count;
    usleep( 10 );
    syncp->count = tmp + 1;
    if( lock ) pthread_mutex_unlock( &syncp->mutex );
}
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, i;
    sync_t *syncp;
    pip_get_pipid( &pipid );
    pip_get_ntasks( &ntasks );
    lock = ( argc == 1 );
    if( pipid == 0 ) {
        syncp = &sync_tasks;
        pthread_barrier_init( &syncp->barr, NULL, ntasks );
        pthread_mutex_init( &syncp->mutex, NULL );
    }
}

```

```

    syncp->count = 0;
    pip_named_export( syncp, "sync" );
} else {
    pip_named_import( 0, (void**) &syncp, "sync" );
}
pthread_barrier_wait( &syncp->barr );
for( i=0; i<NITERS; i++ ) increment( syncp );
pthread_barrier_wait( &syncp->barr );
if( pipid == 0 ) {
    printf( "count=%d (%d*%d)\n", syncp->count,
           ntasks, NITERS );
}
return 0;
}

```

---

Listing 1.29: Pthread Mutex - Execution

```

$ pip-exec -n 10 ./pthread-mutex
count=10000 (10*1000)
$ pip-exec -n 10 ./pthread-mutex NOLOCK
count=993 (10*1000)
$

```

## 1.4 PiP Commands

This section will describe on the PiP commands in the PiP package. Some of them are already shown but explained very briefly. In this section, details of PiP commands will be explained.

### 1.4.1 pip-man

This command shows the PiP man pages. Although this is just a simple shell script to run Linux's `man` command with the `MAN_PATH` setting to the PiP man pages (if installed properly), users need not take care about the man path by using this command.

### 1.4.2 pipcc and pipfc

As already described in Section 1.1.1, **pipcc** is the compiler script for compiling PiP programs for C and C++ and **pipfc** is for Fortran.

The `--which` option will show you the path of the actual back-end compiler. Or, users can specify the back-end compiler by setting the environment variable `CC` for **pipcc** or `FC` for **pipfc**.

By default, **pipcc** and **pipfc** compile program to produce the code which can run as a PiP root process and/or a PiP task. Users may specify `--piproot` option for PiP root only program, or `--piptask` option for PiP

task only program. Indeed, any PiP program compiled as PiP tasks can run as a PiP root too. Thus, `--piptask` option is equivalent to `--pipboth` (to be both root and task) option.

The actual compile options to be passed to the back-end compiler are shown by specifying the `--cflags` option and the link options are shown by the `--lflags` option. The `--cflags` or `--lflags` disables the actual compiling and/or linking process. All options and parameters not for `pipcc` and those Linux commands cannot run as PiP programs. Additionally, any shell script (shebang) cannot run as a PiP program. As shown in Listing 1.30, the `ls` command is implemented a shell script indeed.

Listing 1.30: `pip-check` - Execution Example

```
$ pip-check /usr/bin/ps
/usr/bin/ps : not a PiP program
$ pip-check /usr/bin/ls
/usr/bin/ls : not an ELF file
$ cat /usr/bin/ls
#!/usr/bin/coreutils --coreutils-prog-shebang=ls
$ pipcc --silent pip.c -o pip
$ pip-check ./pip
./pip : Root&Task
$ pipcc --silent --piptask pip.c -o pip-task
$ pip-check ./pip-task
./pip-task : Root&Task
$ pipcc --silent --piproot pip.c -o pip-root
$ pip-check ./pip-root
./pip-root : Root
$
```

The `pip-check` program does not guarantee a program to run as a PiP program, even if it tells so.

### 1.4.3 `pip-exec`

The `pip-exec` command is to invoke PiP tasks derived from one program in the examples so far. However, `pip-exec` can invoke multiple programs and all PiP tasks derived from those programs share the same address space. To do this, programs are separated by colon (:) (Listing 1.31).

Listing 1.31: `pip-exec` - Execution Example

```
$ cat prog.c
#include <pip/pip.h>
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid;
    pip_get_pipid( &pipid );
    printf( "This is %s [%d]\n", argv[0], pipid );
    return 0;
}
```

```

}
$ pipcc --silent prog.c -o a.out
$ cp a.out b.out
$ cp a.out c.out
$ pip-exec -n 2 ./a.out : -n 3 ./b.out : -n 1 ./c.out
This is ./a.out [0]
This is ./a.out [1]
This is ./b.out [2]
This is ./b.out [3]
This is ./b.out [4]
This is ./c.out [5]
$

```

#### 1.4.4 pips

**pips** is the command to output the list of currently running PiP roots and PiP tasks in the similar way of what the Linux's **ps** command does. Here is the example, running three (3) **pip-exec** each of which execute a, b, or c PiP tasks.

```

$ pips
PID    TID    TT      TIME      PIP COMMAND
18741  18741  pts/0   00:00:00  RT  pip-exec
18742  18742  pts/0   00:00:00  RG  pip-exec
18743  18743  pts/0   00:00:00  RL  pip-exec
18741  18744  pts/0   00:00:00  OT  a
18745  18745  pts/0   00:00:00  OG  b
18746  18746  pts/0   00:00:00  OL  c
18747  18747  pts/0   00:00:00  1L  c
18741  18748  pts/0   00:00:00  1T  a
18749  18749  pts/0   00:00:00  1G  b
18741  18750  pts/0   00:00:00  2T  a
18751  18751  pts/0   00:00:00  2G  b
18741  18752  pts/0   00:00:00  3T  a

```

As you see, this output looks very similar to the on of the **ps** command. The unfamiliar column titled PIP represents if this is a PiP root or PiP task (first character. 'R' means root, the other numerical digit '0-9' means PiP task. The second character represents PiP **execution mode**, explained in Section 2.3).

This **pips** command has many options. Refer PiP man page (1.4.1) for more details.

#### 1.4.5 pip-gdb

**pip-gdb** is PiP-aware version of **gdb** (GNU debugger). PiP tasks are implemented as GDB's inferiors. Here is the example of PiP-gdb debugging session.



```
(pip-gdb) info inferiors
      Num  Description              Executable
* 4      process 1904 (pip 2)      /somewhere/pip-task-2
  3      process 1903 (pip 1)      /somewhere/pip-task-1
  2      process 1902 (pip 0)      /somewhere/pip-task-0
  1      process 1897 (pip root)   /somewhere/pip-root
```

### 1.4.6 pip-mode and printpipmode

The **pip-mode** command is to set PiP execution mode and the **printpip-mode** outputs the current execution mode (refer to Section 2.3 and 3.1.4).

### 1.4.7 libpip.so

The PiP library **libpip.so** can also run as a program, showing the information how the library was build and installed.

Listing 1.32: libpip.so - Execution Example

```
$ ${PIPLIBDIR}/libpip.so
Package:      Process-in-Processs
Version:      2.4.1
License:      the 2-clause simplified BSD License
Build OS:     Linux 5.10.104-linuxkit #1 SMP Thu Mar 17 17:08:06 UTC 2022
Build CC:     gcc (GCC) 8.5.0 20210514 (Red Hat 8.5.0-4)
Prefix dir:   /home/ahori/git/pip-2/install
PiP-glibc:    /home/ahori/pip-glibc/install/lib
ld-linux:     /home/ahori/pip-glibc/install/lib/ld-2.28.so
Commit Hash:  2485d3f923302ef03432bc52a5ddc3c4b0398fca
Debug build:  no
URL:          https://github.com/procinproc/PiP/
mailto:       procinproc-info@googlegroups.com
$
```

## 1.5 Summary

### PiP root and PiP task

- PiP programs must be compiled with the **pipcc** (for C and C++) or **pipfc** (for Fortran) command.
- PiP programs can run as PiP tasks by using the **pip-exec** command.
- PiP programs can run as non-PiP tasks by invoking them as normal programs.
- Unlike the conventional multi-thread model (i.e. OpenMP), static variables in a PiP program are privatized and each PiP task has its own set of the static variables.
- Unlike the conventional multi-process model (i.e. MPI), PiP tasks may share the same address space and PiP tasks can access data owned by the other PiP tasks.

## PiP API

- Most PiP functions return error code defined in Linux.
- Every PiP task has a unique **PIPID** per address space.
- PiP root must initialize PiP library by calling **pip\_init()**. While child PiP task may or may not call the initialization function.
- PiP root can spawn PiP tasks by calling the **pip\_spawn()** or **pip\_task\_spawn()** function.
- To obtain the address for accessing data of the other PiP tasks, use the **pip\_named\_export()** and **pip\_named\_import()** functions.
- The **pip\_named\_export()** and **pip\_named\_import()** can be used to synchronize tasks. **pip\_barrier\_wait()** can also be used for tasks to synchronize.
- The **pip\_exit()** function terminates the calling PiP task and PiP root.
- PiP root can wait for the termination of a spawned PiP task, by calling one of the **pip\_wait()** function family.

## 1.6 Myths on PiP

### I cannot see the difference between shared memory and what PiP does

The shared memory model enables to access the data owned by the other process. While the POSIX share memory model allows to share only newly allocated memory region, while another shared memory mode provided by XPMEM<sup>4</sup> allows for the other process to access any memory region. Thus both look the same in terms of accessing the data owned by the other.

However, the mechanisms of both memory models are quite different. To have a shared memory, one must call a system call to ask OS kernel to have the shared memory. This kind of system calls, modifying the memory mapping, are quite expensive. On the other hand, PiP tasks are mapped in one memory address, and a PiP task can access any data owned by the others once the addresses of the data are known, without calling any expensive system calls. In terms of how memory regions are mapped, I name the way what PiP does **shared address space model**, as oppose to the shared memory model. It should be noted that the shared address space model includes the shared memory model.

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<sup>4</sup><https://github.com/hpc/xpmem>

If the data to be shared are scattered in an address space and hard to pack in a memory region, or the shared data are being dynamically allocated, then the shared address space model has the advantage.

### **Sharing an address with multiple programs can be a severe security issue**

PiP allows to run programs sharing the same address space. The most important point here is to make information exchange among programs easy and efficient. If there is no information exchange among them, there is no reason to run them with the PiP environment.

Basically, communicating programs share the same fate. Even a most simple case where two programs are connected by using the Linux/Unix pipe, one of the programs dies, the other programs also dies by receiving the `SIGPIPE` signal. Communicating programs agree with others when to communicate and how to communicate. The PiP case is no exception.

### **Sharing address space makes debugging difficult**

It is true if one of the processes in a PiP environment destroy the data owned by the other(s) may lead to a catastrophic result. If this is done maliciously, then this cannot be avoided (see also above). If the destruction is triggered by a software bug, then this might be harder-to-debug than that of multi-process model. There are two points here; 1) the higher possibility of destructing of actual data, not accessing invalid memory region (`SIGSEGV`), and 2) there are multiple execution entities.

The ASLR can be some help for the former point. If ASLR is enabled, then the phenomenons of the bug can vary time to time. The situation of the latter point is almost the same with the multi-thread case.

Anyway, I have no experiences for having bugs based on this situation up until now.

### **My program does not have any static variables and I do not need PiP.**

You may write programs without having any static variables. However, the functions implemented in Glibc have many static variables. Your runtime system may use some of the Glibc functions. So, in general, it is very hard to write programs not having any static variables.

### **PiP may consume more memory than the other execution models**

The answer is yes, but not that much. Listing 2.4 shows how memory segments of running PiP tasks are mapped in one address space. For example, Glibc (`libc-2.28.so`), Listing 2.5 shows only the memory segments related

to Glibc, loaded three (3) times onto memory in this case, running one PiP root and two PiP tasks each of which requires Glibc. Each segment set is a memory map of `libc-2.28.so`. All three segment sets are mapped from the same file, and the amount of consumed memory is the same with having only one set.

In the multi-process model, Each address space of a process has only one `libc-2.28.so` segment set, but another process has also the same memory mapping of Glibc. Thus, roughly speaking, the amount of memory required to run PiP tasks is almost the same with the one of running multiple processes. However, in the multi-thread model, there is only one variable segment shared among threads, regardless to the number of threads. And the amount of memory for running PiP tasks is larger than that of running multiple threads.

### **There must be some hidden overhead for running PiP programs**

So far, it is known that there is one overhead which is larger than the multi-process model. It is address space modification system calls, such as `mmap()` and `brk()`. This is because any modification of an address space must be locked inside of the OS kernel and this lock contention results in larger overhead. This situation is the same with the multi-thread model and the overhead of `mmap()` is larger than the multi-process model but almost the same with the multi-thread model. There is no other known additional overhead in PiP so far.

## Chapter 2

# PiP Advanced

So far, the basic of PiP is described, In this chapter, more detailed functionalities provides by PiP will be explained.

### 2.1 Rationale

The prosedure to spawn a PiP task is (more detailed procedure can be found at Section [3.1.1](#));

1. create a new name space by calling the Linux's `dlopen()` function,
2. create a PiP task process (or thread) by calling the Linux's `clone()` system call, and
3. jump into the starting function of a user program.

The `dlopen()` function can create a new name space, unlike `dlopen()`. Here, the *name space* is the global symbol names (functions and global variables) to be resolved at loading a program. By creating a new name space, functions and variables can be privatized from the other PiP tasks.

The order of calling the `dlopen()` and `clone()` is very important. At first, I tried to call them in the order of calling `clone()` followed by `dlopen()`, because this way seemed to be quite natural, however, this does not work at all. This the reason of that only PiP root can spawn PiP tasks and wait for the terminations of PiP tasks.

In some cases (or, in most cases before CentOS/Redhat 8), the loaded address of a program is fixed by default. If this is the case, PiP cannot load multiple programs in the same address space. To enable this, the PiP executables must be compiled as PIE (Position Independent Executable) so that the programs can be loaded at any arbitrary address. All programs to be PiP tasks must be compiled as PIE, i.e., must be compiled with **pipcc** or **pipfc** with the `--piptask` option (or nothing to use the default). Note that PiP root program may not be PIE.

By running the loaded program having a new name space with another thread, PiP task can be created. Unfortunately, things are not that simple. There are many issues coming from Glibc. The next section will describe these issues.

## 2.2 Issues related to Linux Kernel, Glibc and Tools

This section will explain about the issues when implementing PiP.

### 2.2.1 Loading a Program

Before going into the details about the Glibc issues when implementing PiP, readers should understand how a program is loaded into memory. This subsection describes only about the program loading procedure of Linux, apart from PiP implementation.

When the Linux's `execve()` system call to run a program, the Linux kernel open and read the executable file, searching the ELF section named `“.interp.”`

Listing 2.1: `“.interp”` Section of the `ps` command

```
$ readelf -a /usr/bin/ps | grep interpreter
[Requesting program interpreter: /lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2]
$
```

Listing 2.1 shows the value of the `“.interp”` section, `/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2`. The Linux kernel invokes the loader specified by the `“.interp”` section and asks the loader to load a program specified by the `execve()` parameter. Then the loader load the program and additionally load and link the shared libraries required to run the program. Once everything is loaded, the loader jumps into the starting function defined in Glibc to initialize Glibc and finally user-defined `main()` function is called.

The program loader, often simply called `ld-linux.so`, is loaded once per address space and kept in memory until the end of the process (see also Listing 2.4). This is responsible for any loading process by resolving the external symbol references. The Glibc functions defined in the `libdl.so` (`-ldl`), such as `dlopen()`, `dlmopen()`, `dlsym()` and so on, are just API and their functional bodies exist in this program loader.

### 2.2.2 Glibc

PiP provides a new execution model which cannot be categorized into neither the process model nor the thread model. In this new model, although its name is not yet given, tasks share the same address space like the thread model, but maintaining the variable privatization like the process model. This execution model is novel and not yet recognized by most of the tool

chains provided by Linux and others. Indeed, the most of the time to develop PiP was devoted to find niches in Glibc.

### PiP Task is Unable to Spawn PiP Task

As described in Section 2.1, the order of calling `dlmopen()` and `clone()` is important. This restriction also means that a PiP task cannot spawn a PiP task as a child of spawning PiP task because this breaks the restriction. Thus, the current PiP implementation inhibits for a PiP task to call `pip_spawn()`.

### Recycling PiP Tasks

As far as I tested, the resources; name space, loaded PIE program, and shared libraries required by the PIE program, are not released by calling the `dlclose()`. I believe this issue can be fixed by patching the Glibc, however, I decided not to do so. Thus, once a PiP task is created, then the **PIPID** of the task will not be recycled even the PiP task terminates. The reason of my decision will also be discussed in Section 3.2.1.

### Number of name spaces

The number of name spaces which the `dlmopen()` can create is hard-coded as 16. Considering PiP tasks run in parallel and the number of CPU cores nowadays, this number of 16 is apparently too small. The PiP package provides PiP-glibc where the number of name spaces is increased, up to 300 PiP tasks<sup>1</sup>.

The name space table resides in the `ld-linux.so` and this means that the `.interp` ELF section of PiP programs must be changed so that the program is loaded by the new `ld-linux.so`. This can be done by specifying `--dynamic-linker` option of the GNU linker and the `pipcc` and `pipfc` do this.

The name space table resides at the top of a structure in `ld-linux.so`. Some Glibc functions refer to the members in this structure directly. This causes another problem. Once the size of the name space table is changed, the addresses of the other members in the same structure are also changes. As described, only one `ld-linux.so` can be loaded in an address space. As a result, all PiP programs sharing the same address must be linked with the same Glibc.

---

<sup>1</sup>Once I asked Glibc development members to increase the size, but they did not accept my opinion. Refer [https://sourceware.org/bugzilla/show\\_bug.cgi?id=23978](https://sourceware.org/bugzilla/show_bug.cgi?id=23978)

## PiP-gdb

The `ld-linux.so` embeds a tiny information for debugging into the loaded program. Unfortunately, I found that this code fragment resides on the pass calling the `ld-linux.so` from the top (by the kernel), not on the pass called from `dlopen()` and `dlmopen()`<sup>2</sup>. The patched PiP-glibc fixed this issue. Thus, the `pip-gdb` command (Section 1.4.5) can only work with the PiP programs linked with the patched PiP-glibc.

## Global lock

Most programs are linked with Glibc and PiP programs are no exception. PiP allows to run multiple PiP programs in the same address space. This means that each PiP task has its own Glibc. And the simultaneous calls of some Glibc functions may not work because of a race condition.

To avoid this condition, PiP library provides the functions, `pip_glibc_lock()` and `pip_glibc_unlock()`, to serialize the Glibc function calls. The following Glibc functions are wrapped by PiP library to introduce the lock and users do not have to care the race.

Table 2.1: Glibc functions wrapped by PiP library

<code>dlsym</code>	<code>dlopen</code>	<code>dlmopen</code>
<code>dlinfo</code>	<code>dlclose</code>	<code>dlerror</code>
<code>dladdr</code>	<code>dlvsym</code>	<code>getaddrinfo</code>
<code>freeaddrinfo</code>	<code>gai_strerror</code>	<code>pthread_create</code>
<code>pthread_exit</code>		
<code>malloc</code>	<code>free</code>	<code>calloc</code>
<code>realloc</code>	<code>memalign</code>	<code>posix_memalign</code>

The functions `pthread_exit()` and below in this table have another reason to have function wrappers. The wrapping reason of `pthread_exit()` will be explained in the Section 2.3 and the reason of wrapping `malloc` routines will be explained in Section 2.7.

These listed functions may not be complete. There can be a case where some other Glibc functions may suffer from the race condition. This problem can be avoided by introducing the above locking functions. This lock can be used recursively and users can avoid deadlock situation easily.

## Constructors and Destructors

The constructors and destructors are used in C++ programs. Constructors and destructors are list of functions. Generally, constructor functions are

---

<sup>2</sup>I guess the loaded code by using `dlopen()` or `dlmopen()` cannot be debugged.



called just before the program begins, and destructors functions are called when the program is about to exit.

In PiP, the behavior of the constructors and destructors is somewhat different. To explain this, I should start explaining how the constructors and destructors are implemented in general. The constructor functions are listed in the `.init_array` section of an ELF file. The destructor functions are listed in the `.fini_array` section. Constructors are called when `ld-linux.so` finishes loading and linking objects. Destructors are called when `dlclose()` is called.

Now back to PiP. Again, constructors are called inside of the call of `dlmopen()` when spawning a PiP task. The `dlmopen()` is called by the PiP root process. Thus, the constructors of a program are called by the root. Here is the example;

---

Listing 2.2: Constructors and Destructors

---

```
#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <iostream>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
char *pipidstr( void ) {
    static char idstr[32];
    int pipid;
    if( pip-get-pipid( &pipid ) != 0 ) {
        sprintf( idstr, "[R] PID:" );
    } else {
        sprintf( idstr, "[%d] PID:", pipid );
    }
    return idstr;
}
static int x = 0;
class Hello {
public:
    Hello(void ) {
        std::cout << pipidstr() << getpid() << " Hello" <<
            std::endl;
    }
    ~Hello(void ) {
        std::cout << pipidstr() << getpid() << " Bye" <<
            std::endl;
    }
};
Hello hello;
int main() {
    std::cout << pipidstr() << getpid() << " MAIN " <<
        std::endl;
    return 0;
}
```

---

Listing 2.2 is a C++ program having a constructor and destructor. When the constructor of this program is called, the PiP library is not yet initialized, and the `pip_get_pipid()` return an error (EPERM). So, the function `pipidstr()` takes care of this situation. Listing 2.3 shows the executoin example of this program. As shown, the PIDs output by the constructors are not the same with the ones of the PiP tasks.

Listing 2.3: Constructors and Destructors - Execution

```
$ ./hello
[R] PID:37214 Hello
[R] PID:37214 MAIN
[R] PID:37214 Bye
$ pip-exec -n 2 ./hello
[R] PID:37215 Hello
[0] PID:37216 MAIN
[0] PID:37216 Bye
[R] PID:37215 Hello
[1] PID:37217 MAIN
[1] PID:37217 Bye
$
```

## LD\_PRELOAD

LD\_PRELOAD only works with PiP root, not PiP tasks. This is because `dlopen()` simply ignores the LD\_PRELOAD environment setting.

## Shared Objects

Some shared objects, such as GCC related runtime libraries, must be located in the same directory where the `ld-linux.so` does. The `pipnlibs` shell script found in the PiP-glibc package makes symbolic links of the shared objects in the `/lib64` directories to meet with the restriction.

## Loading Program by `dlopen()`

The Glibc in CentOS/RedHat 8 (and possibly newer ones) does not allow to load a program by the `dlopen()` function<sup>3</sup>. The `pip-unpie` program is to cheat this Glibc restriction. This program is automatically executed by the `pipcc` or `pipfc` when creating a PiP executable, and not to be invoked by users directly.

---

<sup>3</sup>Refer [https://sourceware.org/bugzilla/show\\_bug.cgi?id=11754#c15](https://sourceware.org/bugzilla/show_bug.cgi?id=11754#c15). I tested this situation but I cannot find this problem with PiP.

### 2.2.3 Glibc RPATH Setting

When using Spack<sup>4</sup>, it automatically adds RPATHs for every program and PiP is no exception. A problem arises when to install the PiP-glibc by using Spack. When the PiP-glibc is built by using Spack, Spack adds the RPATH setting to the compiled Glibc, but it is not allowed in CentOS/Redhat 8 to load Glibc with the RPATH setting. To avoid this, PiP-glibc has a program ([annul\\_rpatha](#)) to unset the RPATH setting of the compiled Glibc.

### 2.2.4 Linux

#### Heap Segment

There is another issue which comes from Linux kernel, not from Glibc. Before explaining this issue, let us start from the how an address space is composed.

Listing 2.4: A Memory Map Example

```
00400000-00402000 r-xp 00000000 00:71 77130812 /PiP/bin/pip-exec
00601000-00602000 r--p 00001000 00:71 77130812 /PiP/bin/pip-exec
00602000-00603000 rw-p 00002000 00:71 77130812 /PiP/bin/pip-exec
00603000-00624000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0 [heap]
7ffe8000000-7fffe8021000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7fffe8021000-7fffec000000 ---p 00000000 00:00 0
7fffee00000-7fffe0000000 ---p 00000000 00:00 0
7fffe000000-7ffff0000000 rwxp 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff000000-7ffff0021000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff0021000-7ffff4000000 ---p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff46da000-7ffff46db000 r-xp 00000000 00:71 78505054 /PiP/example/a.out
7ffff46db000-7ffff48da000 ---p 00001000 00:71 78505054 /PiP/example/a.out
7ffff48da000-7ffff48db000 r--p 00000000 00:71 78505054 /PiP/example/a.out
7ffff48db000-7ffff48dc000 rw-p 00001000 00:71 78505054 /PiP/example/a.out
7ffff48dc000-7ffff48f6000 r-xp 00000000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff48f6000-7ffff4af6000 ---p 0001a000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff4af6000-7ffff4af7000 r--p 0001a000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff4af7000-7ffff4af8000 rw-p 0001b000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff4af8000-7ffff4bf8000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff4bf8000-7ffff4da4000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff4da4000-7ffff4fa4000 ---p 001ac000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff4fa4000-7ffff4fa8000 r--p 001ac000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff4fa8000-7ffff4faa000 rw-p 001b0000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff4faa000-7ffff4fae000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff4fae000-7ffff4fc5000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff4fc5000-7ffff51c4000 ---p 00017000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff51c4000-7ffff51c5000 r--p 00016000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff51c5000-7ffff51c6000 rw-p 00017000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff51c6000-7ffff51ca000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff51ca000-7ffff51cc000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff51cc000-7ffff53cc000 ---p 00002000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff53cc000-7ffff53cd000 r--p 00002000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff53cd000-7ffff53ce000 rw-p 00003000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff53ce000-7ffff53d6000 r-xp 00000000 00:71 77130791 /PiP/lib/ldpip.so.0
7ffff53d6000-7ffff55d5000 ---p 00008000 00:71 77130791 /PiP/lib/ldpip.so.0
7ffff55d5000-7ffff55d6000 r--p 00007000 00:71 77130791 /PiP/lib/ldpip.so.0
7ffff55d6000-7ffff55d7000 rw-p 00008000 00:71 77130791 /PiP/lib/ldpip.so.0
7ffff55d7000-7ffff55d8000 ---p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff55d8000-7ffff65d8000 rwxp 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff65d8000-7ffff65d9000 r-xp 00000000 00:71 78505054 /PiP/example/a.out
7ffff65d9000-7ffff67d8000 ---p 00001000 00:71 78505054 /PiP/example/a.out
7ffff67d8000-7ffff67d9000 r--p 00000000 00:71 78505054 /PiP/example/a.out
7ffff67d9000-7ffff67da000 rw-p 00001000 00:71 78505054 /PiP/example/a.out
7ffff67da000-7ffff67f4000 r-xp 00000000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff67f4000-7ffff69f4000 ---p 0001a000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff69f4000-7ffff69f5000 r--p 0001a000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff69f5000-7ffff69f6000 rw-p 0001b000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff69f6000-7ffff6ba2000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff6ba2000-7ffff6da2000 ---p 001ac000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff6da2000-7ffff6da6000 r--p 001ac000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
```

<sup>4</sup>PiPKW{pip-unpie}program

```

7ffff6da6000-7ffff6da8000 rw-p 001b0000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff6da8000-7ffff6dac000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff6dac000-7ffff6dc3000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff6dc3000-7ffff6fc2000 ---p 00017000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff6fc2000-7ffff6fc3000 r--p 00016000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff6fc3000-7ffff6fc4000 rw-p 00017000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff6fc4000-7ffff6fc8000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff6fc8000-7ffff6fca000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff6fca000-7ffff71ca000 ---p 00002000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff71ca000-7ffff71cb000 r--p 00002000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff71cb000-7ffff71cc000 rw-p 00003000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff71cc000-7ffff71d4000 r-xp 00000000 00:71 77130791 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff71d4000-7ffff73d3000 ---p 00008000 00:71 77130791 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff73d3000-7ffff73d4000 r--p 00007000 00:71 77130791 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff73d4000-7ffff73d5000 rw-p 00008000 00:71 77130791 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff73d5000-7ffff7581000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff7581000-7ffff7781000 ---p 001ac000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff7781000-7ffff7785000 r--p 001ac000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff7785000-7ffff7787000 rw-p 001b0000 fe:01 3445390 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7ffff7787000-7ffff778b000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff778b000-7ffff77a2000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff77a2000-7ffff79a1000 ---p 00017000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff79a1000-7ffff79a2000 r--p 00016000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff79a2000-7ffff79a3000 rw-p 00017000 fe:01 3446072 /lib64/libpthread-2.28.so
7ffff79a3000-7ffff79a7000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff79a7000-7ffff79a9000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff79a9000-7ffff7ba9000 ---p 00002000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff7ba9000-7ffff7baa000 r--p 00002000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff7baa000-7ffff7bab000 rw-p 00003000 fe:01 3445775 /lib64/libdl-2.28.so
7ffff7bab000-7ffff7bc5000 r-xp 00000000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff7bc5000-7ffff7dc5000 ---p 0001a000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff7dc5000-7ffff7dc6000 r--p 0001a000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff7dc6000-7ffff7dc7000 rw-p 0001b000 00:71 77130790 /PiP/lib/libpip.so.0
7ffff7dc7000-7ffff7dea000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3446237 /lib64/ld-2.28.so
7ffff7ed0000-7ffff7fe4000 rw-p 00000000 00:00 0
7ffff7fe4000-7ffff7fe8000 r--p 00000000 00:00 0 [vvar]
7ffff7fe8000-7ffff7fea000 r-xp 00000000 00:00 0 [vdso]
7ffff7fea000-7ffff7feb000 r--p 00023000 fe:01 3446237 /lib64/ld-2.28.so
7ffff7feb000-7ffff7fff000 rw-p 00024000 fe:01 3446237 /lib64/ld-2.28.so
7ffff7fff000-7ffff7fff000 rwxp 00000000 00:00 0 [stack]
ffffffffff600000-ffffffffff601000 r-xp 00000000 00:00 0 [vsyscall]

```

Listing 2.4 shows an example of the output of doing “`cat /proc/<PID>/maps.`” Here, “`pip-exec -n 2 ./a.out`” was executed, resulting one `pip-exec` process and two `./a.out` tasks. The file, `/proc/<PID>/maps`, lists all memory segments in an address space of the process `<PID>` usually. A loaded shared object has consecutive three or four segments; executable, gap (not accessible, if any), constants and data. The rightmost column of a line indicates the `mmap()`ed filename, the second from the left column indicates the permission of the memory segment. ‘r’ is readable, ‘w’ is writable, ‘x’ is executable and ‘p’ is private (copy-on-write). There are also some special segments whose filename is in a pair of square brackets; `[stack]`, `[heap]`, and so on. These are created by the Linux kernel for special purposes as their names suggest. The segments having no filename are created by the `mmap()` system call.

Remember, this is the address space of running one PiP root and two PiP tasks, resulting to have all the segments of the three tasks. Note that the all three tasks have exactly the same `/proc/<PID>/maps` content, and there are three sets of a shared library and only one set of `ld-linux.so` (`ld-2.28.so`) can be seen in Listing 2.4.

Usually, the heap segment, mainly used by `malloc()`, exists only one per address space. As shown in this example, there is only one heap segment, meaning the heap segment is shared by three tasks (one for root and two for PiP tasks).

The size of the heap segment can be increased or decreased by calling the `brk()` system call. Most cases, there are two calls of `brk()` to allocate or deallocate heap memory, one for obtaining the current heap end address and another for setting the new heap end address. This is exactly what the Glibc's `sbrk()` does. Apparently, this API is not thread-safe at all, and thus, the shared heap memory cannot be used safely by PiP tasks.

Fortunately, the `malloc` routines in Glibc is designed to check if there are two or more name spaces and if so they do not use the `brk()` system call, use `mmap()` instead. So, the Glibc `malloc` routines can work with PiP without any problem. However, if some other routines use the `brk()` system call (or `sbrk()` Glibc function), for example, replacing the Glibc `malloc` routines with some other `malloc` implementation, then this shared heap may result in a problem.

## Core File

Suppose that we have a catastrophic situation and all PiP tasks and their root process dump core files of their own. On the current Linux, a core file is associated with a process (including threads inside of it). Thus, each PiP task and the root may produce core, resulting to have many core files. Here, the address space of them are shared and the created core files and all of them are almost the same excepting the CPU state.

Let me explain this with an example. Suppose that we have PiP task *A* and *B* running on the same address space of the root *P*, and an error happens resulting all *P*, *A*, and *B* produce core files. There can be a small time difference when to produce each core file. When the first core file, of *A* for instance, is being created, the other *P* and *B* are still running and the memory of the shared address space can be altered by those running tasks. `gdb`, however, assumes that a core file is a consistent snapshot of memory and CPU state. The above PiP situation breaks this assumption. If *B* produces another core file, may or may not be caused by the error on *A*, the same situation can happen. Thus, the `pip-gdb` command (Section 1.4.5) does not support for debugging from a core file. To solve this issue, PiP-aware OS kernel to have the consistent core files is needed.

### 2.2.5 Tools

As described, PiP sets a special combination of the `clone()` flags. As a result of this, some tools do not work. Here is the list of tools which are known to work or not at the time of this writing<sup>5</sup>.

---

<sup>5</sup>`ltrace` depends on its version

Table 2.2: Compatibility of Tools

Compatible	Incompatible
<code>strace</code> <code>ltrace</code>	<code>valgrind</code>

## 2.3 Execution Mode

PiP library is designed to run on Linux. As described in Section 2.1, it heavily depends on the `dlopen()` and `clone()`. Especially, the `clone()` is called with a rare combination of `CLONE` flags. There are many Linux variants and some of them do not support such a `CLONE` flag combination (for example, McKernel). To run PiP on such environment, there are two PiP execution modes, one for calling `clone()` with the special flag combination and another for calling `pthread_create()` (using the normal flag combination) to spawn a PiP task. The former is called **process mode** and latter is called **pthread mode**. In either mode, the PiP’s basic nature, sharing address space and variable privatization are preserved.

### 2.3.1 Differences Between Two Modes

The difference of the PiP **execution mode** ends up with the difference of the `clone()` flag combination. Unlike the **pthread mode**, the `CLONE` flags of `CLONE_FS`, `CLONE_FILES`, `CLONE_SIGHAND` and `CLONE_THREAD` are reset, `CLONE_VM` and `CLONE_SYSVSEM` is set.

Table 2.3: Differences between two modes

	Process Mode	Pthread Mode
Address Space Sharing	yes	yes
Variable Privatization	yes	yes
File Descriptors (FDs)	not shared	shared

Table 2.3 shows the major differences between the two modes. There are many other differences, though, PiP library provides mode-agnostic functions so that users can write PiP programs without care of the mode differences.

There are also predicate functions for users to know the current mode listed below;

The meaning of `pip_is_threaded()` and `pip_is_shared_fd()` are the same in the current implementation. The reason to have those functions is that there might be the case where those two may have different meanings.

Table 2.4: Mode-Agnostic Functions

Mode-Agnostic	Process Mode	Pthread Mode	note
<b>pip_exit()</b>	exit()	pthread_exit()	termination
<b>pip_wait()</b>	wait()	pthread_join()	wait termination
<b>pip_kill()</b>	kill()	pthread_kill()	send signal
<b>pip_sigmask()</b>	sigprocmask()	pthread_sigmask()	signal mask
<b>pip_signal_wait()</b>	sigwait()	sigwait()	wait signal
<b>pip_yield()</b>	sched_yield()	pthread_yield()	yield

Table 2.5: Execution Mode Predicates

Function name	note
<b>pip_is_threaded()</b>	if pthread mode
<b>pip_is_shared_fd()</b>	if FDs are shared

### 2.3.2 How to Specify Execution Mode

The execution mode can be specified when to call **pip\_init()** and/or setting the **PIP\_MODE** environment variable at run-time. Below is the function prototype of the **pip\_init()**. The first three arguments are already described up until now.

```
int pip_init( int *pipidp,      [IN/OUT]
              int *ntasksp,    [IN/OUT]
              void **root_expp, [IN/OUT]
              int opts );      [IN]
```

The possible values of the last **opts** argument are one of **PIP\_MODE\_PROCESS**, **PIP\_MODE\_THREAD**, oring the both, and zero. The value of zero is equal to **PIP\_MODE\_PROCESS|PIP\_MODE\_PTHREAD**. As for the **PIP\_MODE** environment, it can be a string of “process” or “pthread.” When the **opts** value is zero or the value of oring the both, then the value of **PIP\_MODE** environment variable is checked. If the environment is not set, then the PiP library chooses an appropriate one. The **opts** value and the environment value cannot not contradict with each other.

## 2.4 Spawning Tasks - Advanced

In this section, other features, not described so far, of **pip\_spawn()** and **pip\_task\_spawn()** will be explained. For convenience, the function prototypes of these functions are shown below;

```
int pip_task_spawn( pip_spawn_program_t *progp, [IN]
                   uint32_t coreno,             [IN]
                   uint32_t opts,                [IN]
```

```

                                int *pipidp,           [IN/OUT]
                                pip_spawn_hook_t *hookp ); [IN]

int pip_spawn( char *filename,           [IN]
               char **argv,             [IN]
               char **envv,             [IN]
               int coreno,              [IN]
               int *pipidp,             [IN/OUT]
               pip_spawnhook_t before,   [IN]
               pip_spawnhook_t after,    [IN]
               void *hookarg );          [IN]

```

---

The first argument of `pip_task_spawn()` function is already described in Section 1.2.1. This is structure is to pack the first three arguments of `pip_spawn()`.

#### 2.4.1 Start Function

As already shown in Listing 1.2.1, these PiP spawn functions eventually jumps into the start function (`main()` or user specified one). To enable this, PiP needs to know the address of the start function. One of the following two conditions must be met here;

- the starting function is defined as a global symbol.
- if the starting function is defined as a local symbol then the executable file must not be stripped.

As for the `main()` function, the `pipcc` and `pipfc` compile programs with the `-rdynamic` option to make the symbol global. As for the user-defined local symbol, PiP library read the executable file to spawn and tries to find the starting function by using the ELF information. Unfortunately, the local symbol information is lost if stripped, and PiP fails to find the starting function.

#### 2.4.2 Stack Size

The stack size of spawned PiP tasks can be set by the `PIP_STACKSIZE` environment variable. Like the `OMP_STACKSIZE` environment defined by OpenMP, its value may be suffixed by “T,” “G,” “M,” “K,” or “B” representing the *TiB*, *GiB*, *MiB*, *KiB*, or *Byte* unit, respectively. If no suffix is present, *KiB* is assumed. Unless `PIP_STACKSIZE` is specified, the environment variable `KMP_STACKSIZE`, `GOMP_STACKSIZE`, or `OMP_STACKSIZE` is also effective with the priority in this order. The `KMP_STACKSIZE`, `GOMP_STACKSIZE`, and `OMP_STACKSIZE` also affects the size of OpenMP threads, however, `PIP_STACKSIZE` only affects the stack size of PiP tasks.



### 2.4.3 CPU Core Binding

The `coreno` argument is to bind the spawned PiP task to the specified CPU core. By default, this is the  $N$ th core number. If users want to specify the absolute core number, then the absolute core number should be ORed with the `PIP_CPUCORE_ABS` flag. If the core numbers are consecutive, specifying this flag may not affect the core number specification. This difference is only seen on some CPU architectures with non-contiguous core numbers (e.g., Fujitsu A64FX). The `coreno` argument can be `PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS` to bind to the same CPU cores as of the root process calling the `spawn` function.

### 2.4.4 File Descriptors and Spawn Hooks

In the `process mode`, file descriptors of the root process are duplicated and passed to the spawned child in the same way of what `fork()` does. In the `pthread mode`, files descriptors are simply shared among PiP root and PiP tasks.

If the close-on-exec flag of a file descriptor owned by the root process is set in `process mode`, then the file descriptor is closed after calling the `before hook` described above (if any), and then jump into the start function.

The last argument of `pip_task_spawn()` is the structure packing the last three arguments of `pip_spawn()`. The `pip_spawn_hook_t` structure can be set by calling `pip_spawn_hook()` function. Here is the prototype;

---

```
void pip_spawn_hook( pip_spawn_hook_t *hook,    [OUT]
                    pip_spawnhook_t before,    [IN]
                    pip_spawnhook_t after,     [IN]
                    void *hookarg ) {          [IN]
typedef int (*pip_spawnhook_t)( void* );
```

---

The `before` function in this structure is called when a PiP task is created and before calling the start function (e.g., `main()`). And the `after` function is called when the PiP task is about to terminate. Both functions are called with the argument specified by the `hookarg` to pass any arbitrary data.

In general, a new process is created by calling `fork()` and `execve()` in Linux/Unix. Here, file descriptors owned by parent process are passed to the created child. In many cases, those file descriptors are closed or duplicated and some other settings take place between the calls of `fork()` and `execve()`. In PiP, however, the task is created by only one function and there is no chance to do the same settings with the ones of using `fork&exec`. These hook functions are provided for this purpose. Here is an example of these hook functions;

Listing 2.5: Before and After Hooks

---

```
#define _GNU_SOURCE
```

```

#include <pip/pip.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#define FD_TASK      (10)
int before_hook( void *argp ) {
    int *fdp = (int*) argp;
    printf( "PID:%d Before Hook: fd=%d\n", getpid(), *fdp );
    fflush( stdout );
    dup2( 1, *fdp );
    return 0;
}
int after_hook( void *argp ) {
    int *fdp = (int*) argp;
    printf( "PID:%d After Hook:  fd=%d\n", getpid(), *fdp );
    fflush( stdout );
    close( *fdp );
    return 0;
}
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, pipid_task, i;
    int arg = FD_TASK;
    ntasks = strtol( argv[1], NULL, 10 );
    pip_init( &pipid, &ntasks, NULL, 0 );
    if( pipid == PIP_PIPID_ROOT ) {
        pip_spawn_program_t prog;
        pip_spawn_hook_t     hooks;
        pip_spawn_from_main( &prog, argv[0], argv,
                            NULL, NULL );
        pip_spawn_hook( &hooks,
                        before_hook,
                        after_hook,
                        &arg );
        printf( "PID:%d MAIN\n", getpid() );
        fflush( stdout );
        for( i=0; i<ntasks; i++ ) {
            pipid_task = i;
            pip_task_spawn( &prog, PIP_CPUCORE_ASIS,
                          0, &pipid_task, &hooks );
            pip_wait( pipid_task, NULL );
        }
    } else {
        char *msg;
        asprintf( &msg, "Hello from PIPID:%d\n", pipid );
        write( FD_TASK, msg, strlen( msg ) );
        free( msg );
    }
    pip_fin();
    return 0;
}

```

---

In this example, FD1 of the root process is duplicated to FD10 by the **before hook**. Then the spawned task write a message via FD10. Finally, the FD10 is closed by the **after hook** (Listing 2.3). Note that the execution of those hook functions are called by the root.

Listing 2.6: Before and After Hooks - Execution

```
$ ./hook 2
PID:37426 MAIN
PID:37427 Before Hook: fd=10
Hello from PIPID:0
PID:37427 After Hook: fd=10
PID:37428 Before Hook: fd=10
Hello from PIPID:1
PID:37428 After Hook: fd=10
$
```

## 2.5 Execution Context

Before explaining the rest of the arguments, readers should know about the execution context under PiP. The execution context can be defined as the state of CPU, i.e., contents of hardware registers. On PiP, this definition may not be enough. Let us have an example. Suppose that the same program runs as two PiP tasks and this program has a function `foo()`. By passing the function pointer, by using the **pip\_named\_export()** and **pip\_named\_import()**, one of the PiP task can call the function of the other PiP task. Additionally, this function accesses a static variable, say `var`. If task *A* calls function `foo` of task *B*, then the called function accesses the variable owned by task *B*, not *A* (Listing 2.7 and 2.8).

Listing 2.7: Function Call of Another Task

```
#include <pip/pip.h>
int var;
int foo( void ) { return var; }
int main( int argc, char **argv ) {
    int pipid, ntasks, prev;
    int(*funcp)(void);
    pip_get_pipid( &pipid );
    pip_get_ntasks( &ntasks );
    prev = ( pipid == 0 ) ? ntasks - 1 : pipid - 1;
    var = pipid * 100;
    pip_named_export( foo, "foo%d", pipid );
    pip_named_import( prev, (void**) &funcp, "foo%d", prev );
    printf( "PIPID:%d foo(%d)=%d\n", pipid, prev, funcp() );
    return 0;
}
```

In this example program, sorry, this goes off the side road, `pip_named_export()` and `pip_named_import()` are called differently than before. The final argument of these functions is actually a format string, just like `printf()`, followed by argument(s) needed by the format.

Listing 2.8: Function Call of Another Task - Execution

```
$ pip-exec -n 4 ./context
PIPID:1 foo(0)=0
PIPID:2 foo(1)=100
PIPID:0 foo(3)=300
PIPID:3 foo(2)=200
$
```

Thus, the execution context in PiP environment might be different from the one in common sense and some times its behavior becomes very subtle. In the PiP library, this happens quite often and makes debugging difficult.

Further, the association of static variables and function addresses heavily depends on the CPU architecture and tool chain. The above description is true on `x86_64` and `AArch64`, however, not true on `x86_32`. Thus, it is not recommended to do this.

## Rationale

Some readers may wonder why this happens. Let me explain this. This trick is hidden in the address map. Listing 2.5 shows a part of address map running three tasks, focusing on the Glibc (`/lib64/libc-2.28.so`) segments.

```
...
7fff53f8000-7fff55a4000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7fff55a4000-7fff57a4000 ---p 001ac000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7fff57a4000-7fff57a8000 r--p 001ac000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7fff57a8000-7fff57aa000 rw-p 001b0000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
...
7fff69f6000-7fff6ba2000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7fff6ba2000-7fff6da2000 ---p 001ac000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7fff6da2000-7fff6da6000 r--p 001ac000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7fff6da6000-7fff6da8000 rw-p 001b0000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
...
7fff73d5000-7fff7581000 r-xp 00000000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7fff7581000-7fff7781000 ---p 001ac000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7fff7781000-7fff7785000 r--p 001ac000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
7fff7785000-7fff7787000 rw-p 001b0000 fe:01 3049686 /lib64/libc-2.28.so
...
```

There are three sets of Glibc segments. The static variables are located on the last (readable and writable) segment of each set. A static variable is accessed by an instruction using the offset from the instruction (program counter relative addressing mode) to the variable. Thus, the gap size between the code segment (top of the set) and variable segment (bottom of the set) is important to make all offsets constant and thus all gap sizes must be the same. In this way, variables and instructions are associated in PIE<sup>6</sup>,

<sup>6</sup>This is not the case if not compiled as PIE.

and PIE programs and shared objects compiled with the PIC option can be loaded at any locations.

Unfortunately, this addressing mode is not supported by all CPU architectures<sup>7</sup>. For example, `x86_32` does not. On this architecture, one general purpose register is sacrificed to point the variable segment, resulting performance degradation by losing one general purpose register. And the program shown in Listing 2.7 exhibits differently.

## 2.6 Debugging Support

Some environment variable settings may help debugging PiP programs.

### 2.6.1 PIP\_STOP\_ON\_START

This environment variable is to stop (by sending `SIGSTOP` to spawned PiP task just before calling the **before hook** (Section 2.4.4), or jumping to the starting function if before hook is not given. The value of this environment must meet the following format;

---

```
PIP_STOP_START=[<script-file>]@<PIPID>
```

---

The optional `<script>` is a shell script to be executed on the suspension, and `<PIPID>` is the **PIPID** to be suspended. If `<PIPID>` is -1, then all spawned PiP tasks will be stopped. The `<script>` is invoked with three parameters; PID and **PIPID** of the stopped PiP task, followed by a path to the program of the task. Do not forget to set the *executable* bit on this `<script-file>` file.

---

Listing 2.9: Stop-on-start Script Example

---

```
#!/bin/sh
PID=$1
PIPID=$2
PROG='basename $3'
echo "###" $0 "###" "${PROG} ${PID} ${PIPID}"
pips -f ${PID} # strace, ltrace, pip-gdb, ...
kill -CONT ${PID}
```

---

Listing 2.9 shows an example of the script for the **PIP\_STOP\_ON\_START**. Here, **pips** command is invoked instead of some debugging command<sup>8</sup>. Note that the target task is already stopped by delivering the `SIGSTOP` signal. Somehow you have to explicitly deliver the `SIGCONT` signal to the task if you want to resume the task. Listing 2.10 shows the result of **PIP\_STOP\_ON\_START** execution with this script file.

---

<sup>7</sup>Listing 2.8 is obtained by running the program on an `x86_64` CPU.

<sup>8</sup>All examples are executed on a Docker environment but `ptrace` (and other commands using `ptrace`) was unable to run in this example even with the `--cap-add=SYS_PTRACE` Docker option (I confirmed `gdb` worked). So **pips** was used instead in this example.

Listing 2.10: Stop-on-start Script Example - Execution

```
$ pipcc --silent hello.c -o hello
$ echo $PIP_STOP_ON_START
onstart.cmd@2
$ pip-exec -n 4 ./hello
Hello World
Hello World
PiP-INFO[37149(R):R] PiP task[2] (PID=37152) is SIGSTOPed and executing 'onstart.cmd' script
Hello World
### onstart.cmd ### hello 37152 2
File "/home/ahori/git/pip-2/install/bin/pips", line 228
    from __future__ import print_function
    ^
SyntaxError: from __future__ imports must occur at the beginning of the file
Hello World
$
```

## 2.6.2 PIP\_GDB\_SIGNALS

This environment variable **PIP\_GDB\_SIGNALS** is to set the signals to trigger some actions by specifying the **PIP\_SHOW\_MAPS** and **PIP\_SHOW\_PIPS**, followed by the PiP-gdb invocation. The value of this environment is as follows;

---

```
PIP_GDB_SIGNALS=[ <SIGNAME> ] { "+"|"-" <SIGNAME> }
```

---

The possible <SIGNAME> vale are listed below;

Table 2.6: Possible Signal Names for **PIP\_GDB\_SIGNALS**

```
SIGHUP
SIGINT
SIGQUIT
SIGILL
SIGABRT
SIGFPE
SIGINT
SIGSEGV
SIGPIPE
SIGUSR1
SIGUSR2
ALL
```

Here, ‘‘ALL’’ means all signals list in this table. Each signal name in this table can be concatenated by using the plus (+) and/or minus (-) symbols. For example, “ALL-SIGUSR1” indicates the all signals excluding SIGUSR1. “SIGUSR1+SIGUSR2+SIGINT” represents SIGUSR1, SIGUSR2 and SIGINT.

### 2.6.3 PIP\_SHOW\_MAPS

If **PIP\_SHOW\_MAPS** environment is set to “on” and the a signal specified by the **PIP\_GDB\_SIGNALS** is delivered, then the address map (Listing 2.4, for example) will be shown.

### 2.6.4 PIP\_SHOW\_PIPS

If **PIP\_SHOW\_PIPS** environment is set to “on” and the a signal specified by the **PIP\_GDB\_SIGNALS** is delivered, then **pip** command (Section 1.4.4) is invoked to show the status of the other PiP tasks in the same address space.

### 2.6.5 PIP\_GDB\_PATH and PIP\_GDB\_COMMAND

When **PIP\_GDB\_PATH** is set to the path to **pip-gdb** a signal specified by the **PIP\_GDB\_SIGNALS** is delivered, then **PiP gdb** (Section 1.4.5) will be invoked. If the value of the **PIP\_GDB\_COMMAND** environment is set to a valid filename and if the filename contains some GDB commands, then **PiP-gdb** will be invoked to work with this command file.

## 2.7 Malloc routines

Suppose that we are making a producer-consumer style program using PiP, a PiP task is a producer and another PiP task is a consumer. Unlike the conventional process model, there is no need of calling IPC (Inter Process Communication) system call in PiP. All we have to do is just passing pointers pointing data to be passed from the producer to the consumer.

Here, an issue arises. If the passing data is allocated by a **malloc()** routine, then the passed data is **free()**ed by the consumer. As described so far, each PiP task has its own **malloc()** and **free()** routines associated with static variables holding and maintaining a memory pool. The consumer receives the data allocated from the memory pool of the producer and tries to **free()** it when it becomes unnecessary. However, the **free()** routine on the consumer has no knowledge about the producer-allocated memory region and fails (Figure 2.1). I named this situation *cross-malloc-free*.

I tried this by using the **malloc** routines provided Glibc and I found that this works in most cases, not always. I do not know why this works (again, **in most cases**) with the Glibc **malloc** routines, but I believe this situation must be avoided.

To deal with this, PiP library wraps **malloc** routines as shown in Table 2.1. When a memory region is allocated, the **malloc** wrapper function embeds the information who allocates that region. When this region is to be **free()**ed, the **free()** wrapper function connects the region to the freeing

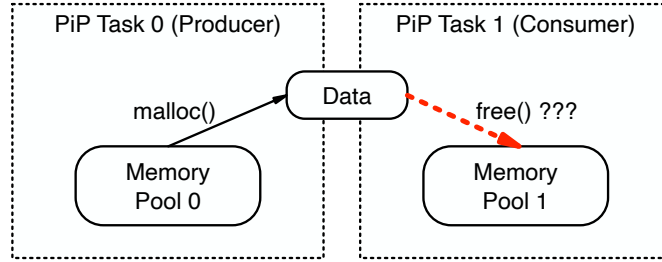


Figure 2.1: Cross-Malloc-Free Issue

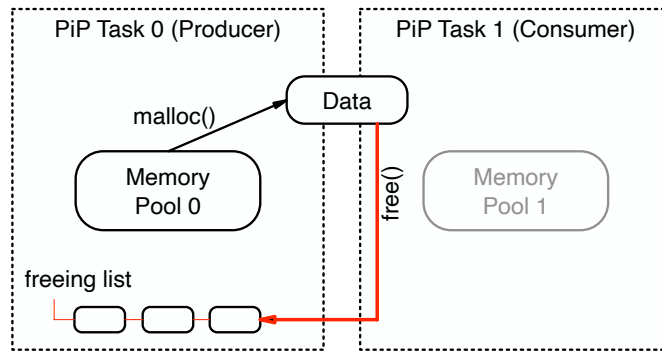


Figure 2.2: Cross-Malloc-Free with Freeing List

list of the task allocating the region. The regions in the freeing list are eventually `free()`ed when one of the `malloc` wrapper functions (Figure 2.2).

## 2.8 XPMEM

As described in Section 1.6, XPMEM is known to provide a shared memory model which is more convenient than the POSIX shared memory. Again, the shared address space which PiP provides includes the shared memory model which XPMEM and POSIX shared memory provide. Thus, the same functionalities of XPMEM can also be implemented by using PiP.

The PiP library provides the same functions which are provided by XPMEM. Those who have programs using XPMEM can easily switch to using PiP. By using PiP, there is no need of installing XPMEM kernel module. Most importantly, XPMEM functions provided by PiP work much faster than those of XPMEM. This is because no system call is involved to map memory segment of the other process(es) in PiP. Indeed, most XPMEM functions almost do nothing since the other processes are already mapped from the beginning in PiP.



## Chapter 3

# PiP Internals

### 3.1 PiP Implementation

#### 3.1.1 Spawning Tasks

Before PiP version 2.4, PiP tasks were created with the procedure as follows;

1. The spawned program is loaded by calling `dlopen()`,
2. Glibc is initialized in the execution context of the loaded program,
3. Call `clone()` or `pthread_create()` (chosen by the **PIP\_MODE** environment setting) to spawn the PiP task,
4. The before hook is called if any, and finally
5. Jump into the starting function.

From PiP version 2.4, the wrapper functions listed in Table 2.1 were introduced. When implementing the wrapper functions, I noticed that wrapping the `dlsym()` is almost impossible.

A function wrapper is usually implemented as; 1) obtain the wrapping function address by calling the `dlsym()` with the `RTLD_NEXT` argument, 2) do the wrapping job before and/or after calling the original function. The most of the Glibc `malloc` routines has the other weak symbols (`malloc()` and `__libc_malloc()`, for example) and users can call the Glibc `malloc` routines without calling `dlsym()`. If there is no such weak symbol, we cannot create a wrapper function for `dlsym()`. How can I wrap a Glibc function without calling `dlsym()`?

To solve this issue, I implemented another program, so called **ldpip.so** to load the PiP library and user program. here is the details of new spawning process;

1. Load **ldpip.so** in the PiP library package by calling `dlopen()` and jump into a function defined inside of it,

2. The starting function of **ldpip.so** initializes Glibc,
3. Obtain Glibc function addresses to wrap them later by **libpip.so**,
4. Load **libpip.so** by calling **dlopen()**,
5. Load a user program by calling **dlopen()**,
6. Call **clone()** or **pthread\_create()** (chosen by the **PIP\_MODE** environment setting) to spawn the PiP task,
7. Jump into a function inside of PiP library and initialize the PiP library,
8. The before hook is called if any, and finally
9. Jump into the starting function in the user program.

At the time of loading **ldpip.so**, no wrapper functions are defined in this program and obtaining the Glibc function addresses is easy, just referencing them. After loading the **libpip.so** and jumping into a function defined in **libpip.so** where the wrapping functions are defined, the Glibc functions to be wrapped are now wrapped by using the function table created by **ldpip.so**<sup>1</sup>.

The Glibc initialization<sup>2</sup> must be done with the execution context (Section 2.5) of the spawned PiP task. In the older version of PiP library, this was done by; 1) calling **dlsym()** to the loaded handle, returned by **dl[m]open()**, to obtain the initialization function and then 2) call the function. In the new implementation, the initialization was done by simply calling the initialization function from the **ldpip.so** where the execution context is the same with that of PiP task.

Thus, by introducing PiP loader program (**ldpip.so**), things can go in a simpler way.

### 3.1.2 Calling **clone()** System Call

As described in Section `refsec:spawn-details`, PiP library calls the **clone()** system call with a special flag combination. The **clone()** system call has many arguments and some of them are hard to implement, I decided to wrap the **clone()** system call to modify only the flag setting.

One issue to wrap the **clone()** system call is that the **clone()** is called not only the PiP library, but also some other libraries (e.g., PThread library). A simple function wrapping cannot handle both situations where the flags

---

<sup>1</sup>If actual dynamic linking would be done in the order of **dl[m]open()**, then the wrapping functions in **libpip.so** would not work as described here. As long as I checked, the Glibc (**libc.so**) is at the last of the search order of **ld-linux.so**, and this works.

<sup>2</sup>Calling **\_\_ctype\_init()**

needs to be changed when it is called by the PiP library but it should not change the flag when called by some other libraries.

To solve this issue and protect the `clone()` system call from being called from PiP library and from another simultaneously, a special locking mechanism was implemented by using the `test-and-set` atomic instruction. When the PiP library is about to call `pthread_create()` call, which eventually calls the `clone()` system call, it locks by using the `test-and-set` instruction with the value of current thread ID (TID). The wrapper function of the `clone` firstly tries to lock, but it fails with value of the current TID, then it is the case of calling from the PiP library. If the lock succeeds, then it is called by some other library. In the former case, the original `clone()` is called with the modified flags. In the latter case, the `clone()` is called with the same argument with the wrapper function call. Needless to say, the lock is unlocked after returning from the original `clone()` system call.

### 3.1.3 Execution Mode in Details

There are two sub-modes in the PiP's **process mode**, **process:preload** and **process:pipclone**<sup>3</sup>. The **process:preload** mode is implemented by wrapping the `clone()` function described above and the **process:pipclone** is implemented to have another `pthread_create()` like function implemented in the patched-glibc (Section 2.2.2). If PiP library is configured to use the patched-glibc, then **process:pipclone** is taken, otherwise **process:preload** is taken.

### 3.1.4 Name of PiP Tasks

Some readers may wonder how the **pips** command (Section 1.4.4) can distinguish the PiP tasks and the other normal processes and/or threads. In Linux, each process and thread can have a name, which can be seen by the `top` command in the **COMMAND** column. The PiP library sets the command name by calling the `prctl()` system call (in **process mode** or `pthread_setname_np()` call (in **pthread mode**. The PiP library uses the first two characters of the name (Table 3.1 and 3.2)).

Table 3.1: Command Name Setting (1st char.)

First char.	Distinction	Note
R	PiP Root	
0..9	PiP Task	the least significant digit of <b>PIPID</b>

<sup>3</sup>In PiP implementation earlier than version 2.4, there was another mode **process:got**. But this becomes obsolete in the newer versions.

Table 3.2: Command Name Setting (Second char.)

2nd char.	Execution Mode	Abbreviation	Note
:	<b>process:preload</b>	L	obsolete
;	<b>process:piplone</b>	C	
.	<b>process:got</b>	G	
	<b>pthread</b>	T	

The name may have up to 16 characters and PiP occupies the first two characters. The remaining 14 characters are used for representing original command name. The abbreviation column in Table 3.2 shows the characters used by the **pip-mode** command (Section 1.4.6) to specify the PiP execution mode. The **pips** command can now distinguish the normal processes or threads from the PiP roots and PiP tasks by using those first 2 characters of the command.

## 3.2 Remaining Issues

### 3.2.1 Retrieving Memory

Let us suppose a case where PiP task *A* pass a pointer to PiP task *B* (Listing 1.8, for example). After then, task *A* terminates for some reason. What if task *B* tries to dereference the pointer to access data which task *A* had? This situation can also happen if the string obtained by calling `getenv()` is passed to the other task. The consequence of this may introduce difficult situation hard to debug. This situation must be detected by compilers and/or tools which are aware of PiP-style execution model.

So, I decided not to reclaim any memory resources when a task terminates, not calling `dlclose()` nor `free()`. In the current PiP implementation, **PIPID** can be allocated only once. And not releasing memory resource will not cause further problem.

## Chapter 4

# PiP Installation

There are several ways to install PiP listed below;

- Building from source code
- **pip-pip** command
- Using *Spack*

It was scheduled to use RPM (yum) and Docker, but they are not available at the time of this writing.

### 4.1 Building from Source Code

Usually, building full PiP package consists of the following steps;

1. Building PiP-glibc (optional)
2. Building PiP library
3. Building PiP-gdb (optional)

The **1** and **3** steps are optional, but PiP-gdb requires PiP-glibc. So the possible combinations are;

- PiP library only
- PiP-glibc and PiP library, and
- PiP-glibc, PiP library and PiP-gdb.

Listing **4.1** shows a typical case of building full set of PiP software package.

Listing 4.1: Building from Source Code

```
$ PIPTOP=$PWD
$ git clone https://github.com/procinproc/PiP-glibc.git
...
$ mkdir glibc-build
$ pushd glibc-build
$ ../PiP-glibc/build.sh ${PIPTOP}/install
...
$ popd
$ git clone https://github.com/procinproc/PiP.git
...
$ pushd PiP
$ ./configure --prefix=${PIPTOP}/install --with-glibc-libdir=${PIPTOP}/install/lib
...
$ make install
...
$ popd
$ git clone https://github.com/procinproc/PiP-Testsuite.git
...
$ pushd PiP-Testsuite
$ ./configure --with-pip=${PIPTOP}/install
...
$ make test
...
$ popd
$ git clone https://github.com/procinproc/PiP-gdb.git
...
$ pushd PiP-gdb
$ ./build.sh --prefix=${PIPTOP}/install --with-pip=${PIPTOP}/install
...
$ ./test.sh
...
$ popd
$
```

## 4.2 pip-pip command

The procedure to install full set of PiP package might be cumbersome, but installing PiP package by using the **pip-pip** (<https://github.com/procinproc/PiP-pip>) command is much easier.

Listing 4.2: PiP-pip installation example

```
$ git clone https://github.com/procinproc/PiP-pip.git
$ cd PiP-pip
$ ./pip-pip --yes

RedHat/CentOS:      8
CPU Architecture:   x86_64
```

```

List of installations
GITHUB PiP-v2
  Prefix dir:    ${PWD}/install/x86_64_centos-8_github_pip-2
  Work dir:     ${PWD}/work/x86_64_centos-8_github_pip-2

  .....

Summary
OK      git https://github.com/procinproc/PiP.git@pip-2 ${PWD}/
        install/x86_64_centos-8_github_pip-2
$

```

## 4.3 Using Spack

Spack<sup>1</sup> is another installation tool designed for the HPC software packages and PiP can also be installed by using Spack. Listing 4.3 shows the example of installing PiP (including PiP-glibc)<sup>2</sup>.

Listing 4.3: Spack installation example

```

$ git clone https://github.com/spack/spack.git
$ cd bin
$ ./spack install process-in-process
...
$

```

---

<sup>1</sup><https://spack.io>

<sup>2</sup>Unfortunately, the current version does not install PiP-gdb for some reason.

# Bibliography

- [1-Hori18] Atsushi Hori, Min Si, Balazs Gerofi, Masamichi Takagi, Jai Dayal, Pavan Balaji, and Yutaka Ishikawa. Process-in-process: Techniques for practical address-space sharing. In *Proceedings of the 27th International Symposium on High-Performance Parallel and Distributed Computing, HPDC '18*, page 131143, New York, NY, USA, 2018. Association for Computing Machinery. (**Note: This is the first paper proposing Process-in-Process.**).

**URL** <https://doi.org/10.1145/3208040.3208045>

**Abstract:** The two most common parallel execution models for many-core CPUs today are multiprocess (e.g., MPI) and multithread (e.g., OpenMP). The multiprocess model allows each process to own a private address space, although processes can explicitly allocate shared-memory regions. The multithreaded model shares all address space by default, although threads can explicitly move data to thread-private storage. In this paper, we present a third model called process-in-process (PiP), where multiple processes are mapped into a single virtual address space. Thus, each process still owns its process-private storage (like the multiprocess model) but can directly access the private storage of other processes in the same virtual address space (like the multithread model). The idea of address-space sharing between multiple processes itself is not new. What makes PiP unique, however, is that its design is completely in user space, making it a portable and practical approach for large supercomputing systems where porting existing OS-based techniques might be hard. The PiP library is compact and is designed for integrating with other runtime systems such as MPI and OpenMP as a portable low-level support for boosting communication performance in HPC applications.



We showcase the uniqueness of the PiP environment through both a variety of parallel runtime optimizations and direct use in a data analysis application. We evaluate PiP on several platforms including two high-ranking supercomputers, and we measure and analyze the performance of PiP by using a variety of micro- and macro-kernels, a proxy application as well as a data analysis application.

- [2-Hori20] A. Hori, B. Geroft, and Y. Ishikawa. An implementation of user-level processes using address space sharing. In *2020 IEEE International Parallel and Distributed Processing Symposium Workshops (IPDPSW)*, pages 976–984, 2020. **(Note: This is the second paper on PiP experimental version (v3) implementing Bi-Level Thread and User-Level Process.)**

**Abstract:** There is a wide range of implementation approaches to multi-threading. User-level threads are efficient because threads can be scheduled by a user-defined scheduling policy that suits the needs of the specific application. However, user-level threads are unable to handle blocking system-calls efficiently. To the contrary, kernel-level threads incur large overhead during context switching. Kernel-level threads are scheduled by the scheduling policy provided by the OS kernel which is hard to customize to application needs. We propose a novel thread execution model, *bi-level thread*, that combines the best aspects of the two conventional thread implementations. A bi-level thread can be either a kernel-level thread or a user-level thread at runtime. Consequently, the context switching overhead of a bi-level thread is as low as that of user-level threads, but thread scheduling can be defined by user policies. Blocking system-calls, on the other hand, can be called as a kernel-level thread without blocking the execution of other user-level threads. Furthermore, the proposed bi-level thread is combined with an address space sharing technique which allows processes to share the same virtual address space. Processes sharing the same address space can be scheduled with the same technique as user-level threads, thus we call this implementation a *user-level process*. However, the main difference between threads and processes is that threads share most of the kernel state of the underlying process, such as

process ID and file descriptors, whereas different processes do not. A user-level process must guarantee that the system-calls always access the appropriate kernel information that belongs to the particular process. We call this *system-call consistency*. In this paper, we show that the proposed bi-level threads, implemented in an address space sharing library, can resolve the blocking system-call issue of user-level threads, while at the same time it retains system-call consistency for the user-level process. A prototype implementation, ULP-PiP, proves these concepts and the basic performance of the prototype is evaluated. Evaluation results using asynchronous I/O indicate that the overlap ratio of our implementation outperforms that in Linux.

- [3-Ouyang20] Kaiming Ouyang, Min Si, Atsushi Hori, Zizhong Chen, and Pavan Balaji. Cab-mpi: Exploring interprocess work-stealing towards balanced mpi communication. In *Proceedings of the International Conference for High Performance Computing, Networking, Storage and Analysis, SC '20*. IEEE Press, 2020. (**Note: This is the first MPI optimization paper using PiP.**)

**Abstract:** Load balance is essential for high-performance applications. Unbalanced communication can cause severe performance degradation, even in computation-balanced BSP applications. Designing communication-balanced applications is challenging, however, because of the diverse communication implementations at the underlying runtime system. In this paper, we address this challenge through an interprocess work-stealing scheme based on process-memory-sharing techniques. We present CAB-MPI, an MPI implementation that can identify idle processes inside MPI and use these idle resources to dynamically balance communication workload on the node. We design throughput-optimized strategies to ensure efficient stealing of the data movement tasks. We demonstrate the benefit of work stealing through several internal processes in MPI, including intranode data transfer, pack/unpack for noncontiguous communication, and computation in one-sided accumulates. The implementation is evaluated through a set of microbenchmarks and proxy applications on Intel Xeon and Xeon Phi platforms.

[4-Ouyang21] Kaiming Ouyang, Min Si, Astushi Hori, Zizhong Chen, and Pavan Balaji. Daps: A dynamic asynchronous progress stealing model for mpi communication. In *2021 IEEE International Conference on Cluster Computing (CLUSTER)*, pages 516–527, 2021. **(Note: This is the another MPI optimization paper using PiP.).**

**Abstract:** MPI provides nonblocking point-to-point and one-sided communication models to help applications achieve communication and computation overlap. These models provide the opportunity for MPI to offload data transfer to low level network hardware while the user process is computing. In practice, however, MPI implementations have to often handle complex data transfer in software due to limited capability of network hardware. Therefore, additional asynchronous progress is necessary to ensure prompt progress of these software-handled communication. Traditional mechanisms either spawn an additional background thread on each MPI process or launch a fixed number of helper processes on each node. Both mechanisms may degrade performance in user computation due to statically occupied CPU resources. The user has to fine-tune the progress resource deployment to gain overall performance. For complex multiphase applications, unfortunately, severe performance degradation may occur due to dynamically changing communication characteristics and thus changed progress requirement. This paper proposes a novel Dynamic Asynchronous Progress Stealing model, called Daps, to completely address the asynchronous progress complication. Daps is implemented inside the MPI runtime. It dynamically leverages idle MPI processes to steal communication progress tasks from other busy computing processes located on the same node. The basic concept of Daps is straightforward; however, various implementation challenges have to be resolved due to the unique requirements of inter-process data and code sharing. We present our design that ensures high performance while maintaining strict program correctness. We compare Daps with state-of-the-art asynchronous progress approaches by utilizing both microbenchmarks and HPC proxy applications.

- [5-Hori22] Atsushi Hori, Kaiming Ouyang, Balazs Gerofi, and Yutaka Ishikawa. On the difference between shared memory and shared address space in hpc communication. In Dhabaleswar K. Panda and Michael Sullivan, editors, *Supercomputing Frontiers*, pages 59–78, Cham, 2022. Springer International Publishing. (**Note: This is the third paper on PiP comparing shared memory model and shared address space model which PiP provides.**).

**Abstract:** Shared memory mechanisms, e.g., POSIX shmem or XPMEM, are widely used to implement efficient intra-node communication among processes running on the same node. While POSIX shmem allows other processes to access only newly allocated memory, XPMEM allows accessing any existing data and thus enables more efficient communication because the send buffer content can directly be copied to the receive buffer. Recently, the shared address space model has been proposed, where processes on the same node are mapped into the same address space at the time of process creation, allowing processes to access any data in the shared address space. Process-in-Process (PiP) is an implementation of such mechanism. The functionalities of shared memory mechanisms and the shared address space model look very similar – both allow accessing the data of other processes –, however, the shared address space model includes the shared memory model. Their internal mechanisms are also notably different. This paper clarifies the differences between the shared memory and the shared address space models, both qualitatively and quantitatively. This paper is not to showcase applications of the shared address space model, but through minimal modifications to an existing MPI implementation it highlights the basic differences between the two models. The following four MPI configurations are evaluated and compared; 1) POSIX Shmem, 2) XPMEM, 3) PiP-Shmem, where intra-node communication is implemented to utilize POSIX shmem but MPI processes share the same address space, and 4) PiP-XPMEM, where XPMEM functions are implemented by the PiP library (without the need for linking to XPMEM library). Evaluation is done using the Intel MPI benchmark suite and six HPC benchmarks (HPCCG,

miniGhost, LULESH2.0, miniMD, miniAMR and mpiGraph). Most notably, mpiGraph performance of PiP-XPMM outperforms the XPMM implementation by almost 1.5x. The performance numbers of HPCCG, miniGhost, miniMD, LULESH2.0 running with PiP-Shmem and PiP-XPMM are comparable with those of POSIX Shmem and XPMM. PiP is not only a practical implementation of the shared address space model, but it also provides opportunities for developing new optimization techniques, which the paper further elaborates on.

[6-Ouyang22] Kaiming Ouyang. PhD thesis, University of California Riverside, 2022. (**Dr. Ouyang’s Ph.D. Thesis using PiP.**)

**Abstract:** In exascale computing era, applications are executed at larger scale than ever before, which results in higher requirement of scalability for communication library design. Message Passing Interface (MPI) is widely adopted by the parallel application nowadays for interprocess communication, and the performance of the communication can significantly impact the overall performance of applications especially at large scale. There are many aspects of MPI communication that need to be explored for the maximal message rate and network throughput. Considering load balance, communication load balance is essential for high-performance applications. Unbalanced communication can cause severe performance degradation, even in computation-balanced Bulk Synchronous Parallel (BSP) applications. MPI communication imbalance issue is not well investigated like computation load balance. Since the communication is not fully controlled by application developers, designing communication-balanced applications is challenging because of the diverse communication implementations at the underlying runtime system. In addition, MPI provides non-blocking point-to-point and one-sided communication models where asynchronous progress is required to guarantee the completion of MPI communications and achieve better communication and computation overlap. Traditional mechanisms either spawn an additional background thread on each MPI process or launch a fixed number of helper processes on each node. For

complex multiphase applications, unfortunately, severe performance degradation may occur due to dynamically changing communication characteristics. On the other hand, as the number of CPU cores and nodes adopted by the applications greatly increases, even the small message size MPI collectives can result in the huge communication overhead at large scale if they are not carefully designed. There are MPI collective algorithms that have been hierarchically designed to saturate inter-node network bandwidth for the maximal communication performance. Meanwhile, advanced shared memory techniques such as XPMEM, KNEM and CMA are adopted to accelerate intra-node MPI collective communication. Unfortunately, these studies mainly focus on large-message collective optimization which leaves small- and medium-message MPI collectives suboptimal. In addition, they are not able to achieve the optimal performance due to the limitations of the shared memory techniques. To solve these issues, we first present CAB-MPI, an MPI implementation that can identify idle processes inside MPI and use these idle resources to dynamically balance communication workload on the node. We design throughput-optimized strategies to ensure efficient stealing of the data movement tasks. The experimental results show the benefits of CAB-MPI through several internal processes in MPI, including intranode data transfer, pack/unpack for noncontiguous communication, and computation in one-sided accumulates through a set of microbenchmarks and proxy applications on Intel Xeon and Xeon Phi platforms. Then, we propose a novel Dynamic Asynchronous Progress Stealing model (Daps) to completely address the asynchronous progress complication; Daps is implemented inside the MPI runtime, and it dynamically leverages idle MPI processes to steal communication progress tasks from other busy computing processes located on the same node. We compare Daps with state-of-the-art asynchronous progress approaches by utilizing both microbenchmarks and HPC proxy applications, and the results show the Daps can outperform the baselines and achieve less idleness during asynchronous communication. Finally, to further improve MPI collectives performance, we propose Process-in-Process

based Multiobject Interprocess MPI Collective (PiP-MColl) design to maximize small and medium-message MPI collective performance at a large scale. Different from previous studies, PiP-MColl is designed with efficient multiple senders and receivers collective algorithms and adopts Process-in-Process shared memory technique to avoid unnecessary system call and page fault overhead to achieve the best intra- and inter-node message rate and throughput. We focus on three widely used MPI collectives MPI Scatter, MPI Allgather and MPI Allreduce and apply PiP-MColl to them. Our microbenchmark and real-world HPC application experimental results show PiP-MColl can significantly improve the collective performance at a large scale compared with baseline PiP-MPICH and other widely used MPI libraries such as OpenMPI, MVAPICH2 and Intel MPI.

# Index

- ASLR, 34
- close-on-exec, 48
- Linux Command
  - gdb, 44
  - ltrace, 44
  - top, 58
- Linux Define Symbol
  - EPERM, 17, 41
  - RTLD\_NEXT, 56
  - SIGPIPE, 34
  - SIGSEGV, 34
  - WEXITSTATUS, 22
  - WIFEXITED, 22
  - WIFSIGNALED, 22
  - WTERMSIG, 22
- Linux Environment Variable
  - GOMP\_STACKSIZE, 47
  - KMP\_STACKSIZE, 47
  - LD\_PRELOAD, 41
  - OMP\_STACKSIZE, 47
- Linux Function
  - \_\_ctype\_init(), 57
  - \_\_libc\_malloc(), 56
  - brk(), 35, 44
  - clone(), 36, 44, 56–58
  - dl[m]open(), 57
  - dlclose(), 38, 40
  - dlopen(), 36
  - dlopen(), 36, 38–41, 56
  - dlopen(), 36, 37, 39, 57
  - dlsym(), 37, 56, 57
  - execve(), 17, 37, 48
  - exit(), 24
  - fork(), 48
  - free(), 54, 55
  - gettimeofday(), 26
  - malloc, 44, 54–56
  - malloc(), 43, 54, 56
  - mmap(), 35, 43
  - prctl(), 58
  - pthread\_exit(), 39
  - pthread\_barrier\_init(), 25
  - pthread\_barrier, 27
  - pthread\_barrier\_destroy(), 25
  - pthread\_barrier\_wait(), 25
  - pthread\_create(), 56–58
  - pthread\_mutex, 28
  - pthread\_setname\_np(), 58
  - sbrk(), 44
  - wait(), 22
- Linux Variable
  - environ, 17
- MPI, 12–14, 17
  - mpiexec, 13
- MPI process, 14, 17
- OpenMP, 12, 14
- OpenMP thread, 14
- PIC, 52
- PIE, 36, 51, 52
- PiP Command
  - annul\_rpatha, 42
  - pip-check, 30
  - pip-exec, 12, 13, 17, 30–32, 43
  - pip-gdb, 31, 39, 44, 54
  - pip-mode, 32, 59
  - pip-pip, 60, 61
  - pip-unpie, 41



- pipcc, [12](#), [13](#), [29](#), [30](#), [32](#), [36](#), [38](#), [41](#), [47](#)
  - pipfc, [29](#), [32](#), [36](#), [38](#), [41](#), [47](#)
  - pipnlibs, [41](#)
  - pips, [31](#), [52](#), [54](#), [58](#), [59](#)
  - printpipmode, [32](#)
- PiP Define Symbol
  - PIP\_CPUCORE\_ABS, [48](#)
  - PIP\_CPUCORE\_ASIS, [17](#), [48](#)
  - PIP\_MODE\_PROCESS, [46](#)
  - PIP\_MODE\_THREAD, [46](#)
  - PIP\_PIPID\_ANY, [18](#)
  - PIP\_PIPID\_ROOT, [19](#)
  - PIP\_STACKSIZE, [47](#)
- PiP Environment Variable
  - PIP\_GDB\_COMMAND, [54](#)
  - PIP\_GDB\_PATH, [54](#)
  - PIP\_GDB\_SIGNALS, [53](#), [54](#)
  - PIP\_MODE, [46](#), [56](#), [57](#)
  - PIP\_SHOW\_MAPS, [53](#), [54](#)
  - PIP\_SHOW\_PIPS, [53](#), [54](#)
  - PIP\_STOP\_ON\_START, [52](#)
- PiP Function
  - pip\_spawn(), [33](#)
  - pip\_barrier, [27](#)
  - pip\_barrier\_fn(), [25](#)
  - pip\_barrier\_init(), [25](#)
  - pip\_barrier\_wait(), [25](#), [26](#)
  - pip\_exit(), [24](#), [33](#), [46](#)
  - pip\_fn(), [17](#)
  - pip\_get\_pipid(), [41](#)
  - pip\_gettime(), [26](#)
  - pip\_glibc\_lock(), [39](#)
  - pip\_glibc\_unlock(), [39](#)
  - pip\_init(), [17–19](#), [26](#), [33](#), [46](#)
  - pip\_is\_shared\_fd(), [45](#), [46](#)
  - pip\_is\_threaded(), [45](#), [46](#)
  - pip\_kill(), [46](#)
  - pip\_named\_export(), [16](#), [33](#), [50](#), [51](#)
  - pip\_named\_import(), [16](#), [33](#), [50](#), [51](#)
  - pip\_sigmask(), [46](#)
  - pip\_signal\_wait(), [46](#)
  - pip\_spawn(), [17](#), [18](#), [20](#), [21](#), [38](#), [46–48](#)
  - pip\_spawn\_from\_func(), [21](#)
  - pip\_spawn\_from\_main(), [21](#)
  - pip\_spawn\_hook(), [48](#)
  - pip\_task\_spawn(), [20](#), [21](#), [33](#), [46–48](#)
  - pip\_trywait(), [23](#)
  - pip\_trywait\_any(), [23](#)
  - pip\_wait(), [22](#), [23](#), [33](#), [46](#)
  - pip\_wait\_any(), [23](#)
  - pip\_yield(), [46](#)
- PiP Term
  - after hook, [50](#)
  - before hook, [48](#), [50](#), [52](#)
  - execution mode, [31](#), [45](#)
  - ldpip.so, [56](#), [57](#)
  - libpip.so, [32](#), [57](#)
  - pip\_barrier\_wait(), [33](#)
  - PIP\_MODE, [46](#)
  - PIPID, [15–18](#), [23](#), [33](#), [38](#), [52](#), [58](#), [59](#)
  - process:got, [58](#), [59](#)
  - process:pipeline, [58](#), [59](#)
  - process:preload, [58](#), [59](#)
  - process mode, [45](#), [48](#), [58](#)
  - pthread, [59](#)
  - pthread mode, [45](#), [48](#), [58](#)
  - shared address space model, [33](#)
- PiP Type
  - pip\_barrier\_t, [26](#)
  - pip\_spawn\_hook\_t, [48](#)
  - pip\_spawn\_program\_t, [21](#)
- shared address space model, [34](#)
- shared memory model, [33](#)
- test-and-set, [58](#)
- variable privatization, [15](#)