

# ECCE 632: Advanced Operating Systems Assignment

# System Calls

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Spring 2022

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#### 1 Introduction

#### 1.1 System Calls

System calls provide an interface for user programs to access the services made available by the operating system. Application developers access system calls via an application programming interface (API). The API specifies a set of C functions that are available to the application programmer, including the parameters that are passed to each function and the return values the programmer can expect. The functions that make up the API typically invoke the actual system calls on behalf of the application programmer.

#### 1.1.1 Example of Standard API

As an example of the standard POSIX API, consider the open() function that is available in UNIX and Linux systems. The API for this function is obtained from the man page. A description of this API appears below:

```
#include <unistd.h>
int open(const char *path, int oflags);
int open(const char *path, int oflags, mode_t mode);
```

A program that uses the open() function must include the unistd.h header file, as this file defines int data types (among other things). The parameters passed to open() are as follows.

- const \*path The relative or absolute path to the file that is to be opened.
- int oflags A bitwise 'or' separated list of values that determine the method in which the file is to be opened.
- mode t mode A bitwise 'or' separated list of values that determine the permissions of the file if it is created.

The file descriptor returned is the integer that is positive or zero if the file was opened without problems. If a negative value is returned, then there was an error occur while opening the file.

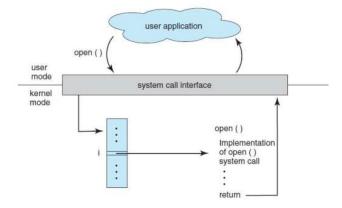


Figure 1: A user application invoking the open() system call.

The relationship between an API, the system-call interface, and the operating system is shown in Figure 1, which illustrates how the operating system handles a user application invoking the open() system call.

#### 1.1.2 Diagram

Figure 2 shows, the diagram of doing the assignment. First, you will practice the progress of compiling Linux kernel. After that, the most important part is to implement a system call inside the kernel. The assignment is divided into multiple stages and score is marked by each stage as Figure 2.



Figure 2: Diagram of implementing the assignment

## 2 Prepare Linux Kernel

The main objective of this chapter is to prepare the linux kernel on a virtual machine running Ubuntu 20.04.

#### 2.1 Preparation

#### 2.1.1 Set up Virtual Machine

1. Oracle VM Virtual Box Manager was used along with Ubuntu 20.4 image.

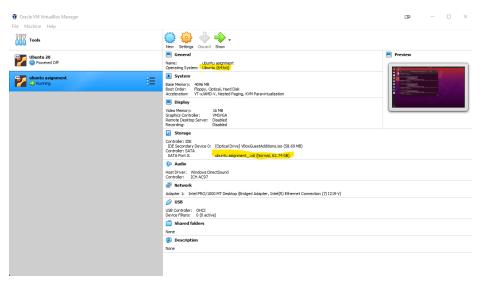


Figure 3: Virtual Box Manager Settings

Some settings were modified to allow us the system to run smoothly. First, at least 50 GB of storage memory is required to be allocated for Ubuntu to allow all the required packages to be installed. Secondly, bidirectional drag and drop and clapboarding to allow the host machine to send/share data to the virtual machine. For networking, it is important to set bridge adapter to allow the virtual machine to access the internet to download the required packages.

#### 2.1.2 Install core packages

 Get Ubuntu's toolchain (gcc, make, and so forth) by installing the build essential metapackage:

#### 2.1.3

```
$ sudo apt-get update
$ sudo apt-get install build-essential
```

• Install kernel-package:

```
$ sudo apt-get install kernel-package
```

#### **2.1.4** Create a kernel compilation directory:

It is recommended to create a separate build directory for your kernel(s). In this example,

the directory kernelbuild will be created in the home directory:



Figure 4: Kernel Directory

#### 2.1.5 Download the kernel source

Download the kernel source from http://www.kernel.org. This should be the tarball (tar.xz) file for your chosen kernel. It can be downloaded by simply right-clicking the tar.xz link in your browser and selecting Save Link As..., or any other number of ways via alternative graphical or command-line tools that utilize HTTP, FTP, RSYNC, or Git. In the following command-line example, wget has been installed and is used inside the ~/kernelbuild directory to obtain kernel 4.4.56.

```
$ cd \(^/\kernelbuild\)
$ wget https://cdn.kernel.org/pub/linux/kernel/v4.x/linux-4.4.56.tar.xz
```

**QUESTION:** Why we have to use another kernel source from the server such as http://www.kernel.org, can we compile the original kernel (the local kernel on the running OS) directly?

We can't compile the local operating system because its already compiled. The local operating system is in a binary format and couldn't be compiled. I need to download another copy, source format, then I need to build the binary of the source code in each directory on my disk.

#### 2.2 Configuration

A crucial step in customizing the default kernel to reflect your computer's precise specifications. Kernel configuration is its .config file, which includes the use of Kernel modules. By setting the options in .config properly, your kernel and computer will function most efficiently. Since making our own configuration file is a complicated process, we could borrow the content of configuration file of an existing kernel currently used by the virtual machine. This file is typically located in /boot/ so our job is simply copy it to the source code directory:

```
$ cp /boot/config-x.x.x-x-generic ~/kernelbuild/linux-4.4.56/.config
```

Using the command uname -r we can find the specific version of kernel installed.

```
mohd@mohd-VirtualBox:~/kernelbuild/linux-4.4.56$ uname -r
5.13.0-44-generic
```

run \$ make menuconfig or \$ make nconfig inside the top directory to open Kernel Configuration.

To change kernel version, go to General setup option, Access to the line "(-ARCH) Local version append to kernel release". Then enter a dot "." followed by your MSSV. For example: .1601234 Press F6 to save your change and then press F9 to exit.

```
Install relevant compilers:
    sudo apt-get update
    sudo apt-get install libncurses5-dev libssl-dev
    sudo apt-get install build-essential openssl
    sudo apt-get install zlibc minizip
    sudo apt-get install bison
    sudo apt-get install vim
    sudo apt-get install flex
    sudo apt-get install libssl-dev
    sudo apt-get install libssl-dev
    sudo apt-get install libsl-dev
```

# 3 Adding a Hello World Sys call

```
Add the desired system call function
sudo vim sys.c
(Note: In vim, "I" enters edit, "esc" exits edit. "G" jumps to the end, "gg" goes to
the beginning. ":wq" save to exit, ":q" don't save to exit)
Add the following function in this file:
asmlinkage long sys_helloworld(void)
  printk( "helloworld!");
  return 1;
Add the system call number:
439 64 helloworld
                          sys_helloworld
cd /usr/src/linux-5.6
sudo make mrproper
sudo make clean
sudo make menuconfig
since there is a runtime error, we had to troubleshoot by using sudo gedit .config
Find:
CONFIG SYSTEM TRUSTED KEYS="debian/canonical-certs.pem"
Delete:
debian/canonical-certs.pem
```

#### 3.1 Compiling

sudo make -j4 (to use 4 cores)

(The terminal window is maximized when performing the steps in this block, otherwise an error may be reported)

It will take 2-3 hours.

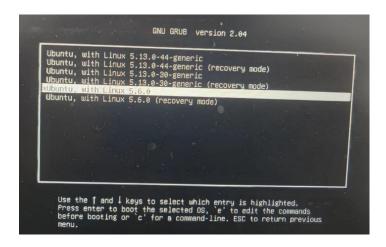
sudo make modules\_install

sudo make install

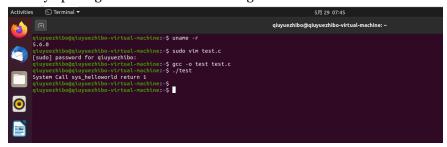
#### sudo reboot

(After rebooting, click the mouse to enter ubuntu and quickly hold down shift and long press)

Choose the linux version.



Test by opening the terminal and running command uname -r



```
#define _GUN_SOURCE
#include <unistd.h>
#include #include *sys/syscall.h>
#include <stdio.h>
int main() {
    long int a=syscall(439);
    printf("System Call sys_helloworld return %ld\n",a);
    return 0;
}
```

Run the command gcc -o test test.c

Success.

## 4 System Call – procsched

In this assignment, we have to define a system call named 'proceded'. This syscall helps user to show the schedule information of a specific process. An example output:

```
pcount: 4567
run_delay: 829035007
last_arrival: 1818402352768
last_queued: 0
```

To implement this system call, you have to use 2 data structures defined by Linux OS, task struct and sched info. In the Linux kernel, every process has an associated struct task struct. The definition of this struct is in the header file include /linux/sched.h

```
struct task_struct {
    volatile long state;
    /* -1 unrunnable, 0 runnable, >0 stopped */
    struct thread_info *thread_info;
    atomic_t usage;
    ...
    ...
    struct sched_info sched_info;
    ...
    char comm[16];
    ...
};
```

The sched\_info within the task\_struct describe schedule information of the process. The sched\_info is defined in include /linux/sched.h as:

Kernel modules must have at least two functions: a "start" (initialization) function called init module() which is called when the module is insmoded into the kernel, and an "end" (cleanup) function called cleanup module() which is called just before it is rmmoded.

# QUESTION: What is the meaning of other parts, i.e., i386, Procsched, and sys Procsched?

I386: ABI (Application Binary Interface)

Proceded: none of the syscall Sys\_proceded: entry point.

#### 4.1 Kernel Module

Add the desired system call function sudo vim sys.c

Add following codes: (which are basically the codes in "sys\_procsched.c" file.

```
#include linux/linkage.h>
#include linux/sched.h>
#include linux/kernel.h>
#include ux/uaccess.h>
struct proc_segs {
unsigned long mssv;
unsigned long pcount;
  unsigned long long run_delay;
  unsigned long long last_arrival;
  unsigned long long last_queued;
asmlinkage long sys_procsched(int pid, struct proc_segs * info){
struct task_struct * task;
printk("Finding...\n");
for_each_process(task) {
          printk("[%d] ----- [%s]\n", task->pid, task->comm);
          if(task->pid == pid) {
                    if(task->mm != NULL) {
                              struct proc_segs buff;
                              printk("inside process!\n");
                              buff.mssv = 1601234;
                              buff.pcount = task->sched_info.pcount;
                              buff.run_delay = task->mm->run_delay;
                              buff.last_arrival = task->mm->last_arrival;
                              buff.last_queued = task->mm->last_queued;
                              int res = copy_to_user(info, &buff, sizeof(buff));
                              if(res == 0) printk("copy data successful!\n");
                              else printk("copy data failed\n");
                              printk("Find out pid [%d]", pid);
                              return o;
                    }
}
return -1;
```

#### 4.1.1 Add the statement

cd /usr/src/linux-5.6/arch/x86/include/asm/sudo vim syscalls.h

#### Add:

struct proc\_segs;

asmlinkage long sys\_procsched(int pid, struct proc\_segs \* info)

#### 4.1.2 Add system call number

cd /usr/src/linux-5.6/arch/x86/entry/syscalls sudo vim syscall\_64.tbl

548 x32 procsched sys\_procsched

# 4.2 Compiling (The same as in adding a helloworld)

cd /usr/src/linux-5.6 sudo make mrproper sudo make clean sudo make menuconfig

When the window appears use the left and right keyboard keys to control directly save->ok->exit->exit

sudo gedit .config

#### Find:

CONFIG\_SYSTEM\_TRUSTED\_KEYS="debian/canonical-certs.pem"

#### Delete:

debian/canonical-certs.pem

#### sudo make -j4

(The terminal window is maximised when performing the steps in this block, otherwise an error may be reported)

It will take 2-3 hours.

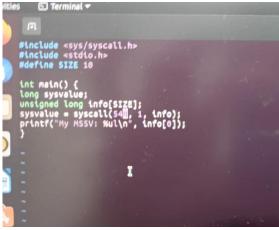
```
sudo make modules_install
sudo make install
sudo reboot
```

(After rebooting, click the mouse to enter ubuntu and quickly hold down shift and long press)

#### 4.3 Test MSSV

#### sudo vim test2.c

```
Add following codes:
#include <sys/syscall.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#define SIZE 10
int main() {
long sysvalue;
unsigned long info[SIZE];
sysvalue = syscall(548, 1, info);
printf("My MSSV: %ul\n", info[o]);
}
```



gcc -o test2 test2.c ./test2

# **Succeed! MSSV shown on the screen.**

Open the file include/linux/syscalls.h and add the following line to the end of this file:

```
struct proc_segs;
asmlinkage long sys_procsched(int pid, struct proc_segs * info);
```

**QUESTION:** What is the meaning of each line above?

The 1st Line: struct proc\_segs:

Proc segs argument of the type struct

The 2<sup>nd</sup> line:

Long: function handling syscall return

Asmlinkage is a #define with some gcc magic tells the complier that the function is not expected to optimally find all the arguments in the registers (a common optimization), but only on the CPU's stack

System\_call consume its first argument, the system call number and allows up to 4 more arguments passed to real system, on the stack, all system calls are marked with asmlinkage tag, so they all look to the stack for arguments.

Its also used to allow calling a function from assembly files.

First run "make" to compile the kernel and create vmlinuz. It takes a long time to "\$ make", we can run this stage in parallel by using tag "-j np", where np is the number of processes you run this command.

```
$ make
or
$ make -j 4
```

vmlinuz is "the kernel". Specifically, it is the kernel image that will be uncompressed and loaded into memory by GRUB or whatever other boot loader you use.

Then build the loadable kernel modules. Similarly, you can run this command in parallel.

```
$ make modules
or
$ make -j 4 modules
```

QUESTION: What is the meaning of these two stages, namely "make" and "make modules"?

"Make": to compile and link the kernel image, there is a single file name "vmlinuz"

"Make modules" compiles individual files for each question you answered "M" during kernel config. The object code is linked against your freshly built kernel. For each question answered "Y" there are already part of "vmlinuz" and questions answered "N" are skipped.

After compiling and executing this program, your MSSV should be shown on the screen. **QUESTION:** Why this program could indicate whether our system works or not?

The program is to check if system call has been integrated into kernel by calling syscall ([number 32],1. Info], info[0] should be the MSSV. Because MSSV is defined in the first line of the struct proc\_segs

# 5 Wrapper

# 5.1 Create "procsched.h" and "procsched.c" files.

procsched.c:

```
#include "procsched.h"
#include kernel.h>
#include <sys/syscall.h>
#define _SYS_PROCMEM 548

long procsched(pid_t pid, struct proc_segs * info) {
  long sysvalue;
  sysvalue = syscall(_SYS_PROCMEM, pid, info);
  return sysvalue;
}
```

Note: You must define fields in proc\_segs struct in the same order as you did in the kernel.

QUESTION: Why we have to re-define proc\_segs struct while we have already defined it inside the kernel?

Because we have to leave out kernel source code directory and create to store the source for our wrapper. The redefine of proc\_segs is for the prototype of the wrapper. They are in different directory with the one defined inside the kernel.

#### procsched.h:

```
#ifndef _PROC_MEM_H_
#define _PROC_MEM_H_
#include <unistd.h>

struct proc_segs {
   unsigned long mssv;
   unsigned long pcount;
   unsigned long long run_delay;
   unsigned long long last_arrival;
   unsigned long long last_queued;
};

long procsched(pid_t pid, struct proc_segs * info);

#endif // _PROC_SCHED_H_
```

Validation You could check your work by write an additional test module to call this functions but do not include the test part to your source file (procsched.c). After making sure that the wrapper work properly, we then install it to our virtual machine. First, we must ensure everyone could access this function by making the header file visible to GCC. Run following command to copy our header file to header directory of our system:

```
$ sudo cp <path to procsched.h> /usr/include
```

**QUESTION:** Why root privilege (e.g. adding sudo before the cp command) is required to copy the header file to /usr/include?

The command "CD" needs to be run with root privilege. We are copying our header file "proceched.h" top header directory of our system so that everyone could access this function. This changed the privilege of the file, therefore, needs the root privilege "sudo"

```
qluyuezhibo@qluyuezhibo-virtual-nachines-$ sudo cp /hone/qluyuezhibo@qluyuezhibo@qluyuezhibo-virtual-machines-fieskop
qluyuezhibo@qluyuezhibo-virtual-nachines-$ sec -shared -fptc procsched.c -o libprocsched.so
gcc: error: procsched.c: No such file or directory
gcc: fatal error: no input files
compilation terminated.
qluyuezhibo@qluyuezhibo-virtual-nachines-$ de /hone/qluyuezhibo/Desktop/
qluyuezhibo@qluyuezhibo-virtual-nachines-fileskoni$ gcc -shared -fptc procsched.c -o libprocsched.so
qluyuezhibo@qluyuezhibo-virtual-nachines-fileskoni$ sudo cp /hone/qluyuezhibo/Desktop/libprocsched.so /usr/tib
```

#### Last Step!

#### Create check.c file to check:

```
#include csched.h>
#include <sys/types.h>
#include <unistd.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdint.h>
int main() {
    pid_t mypid = getpid();
     printf("PID: %d\n", mypid);
     struct proc_segs info;
     if (procsched(mypid, &info) == 0) {
          printf("Student ID: %lu \n", info.mssv);
          printf("pcount: %lu \n", info.pcount);
          printf("run_delay: %llu \n", info.run_delay);
          printf("last_arrival: %llu\n", info.last_arrival);
         printf("last_queued: %llu\n", info.last_queued);
          printf("Cannot get information from the process %d\n", mypid);
     // If necessary, uncomment the following line to make this program run
     // long enough so that we could check out its maps file
     // sleep(100);
```

#### sudo gcc -o check check.c -lprocsched

./check

```
qiuyuezhibo@qiuyuezhibo-virtual-machine!=/Desktop$ sudo gcc -o check check.c -lprocsched qiuyuezhibo@qiuyuezhibo-virtual-machine!=/Desktop$ ./check
PID: 2320
Student ID: 140585526231784
pcount: 94608962687664
run_delay: 0
last_arrival: 94608962687168
last_queued: 140735277510480
qiuyuezhibo@qiuyuezhibo-virtual-machine:=/Desktop$
```

#### Final output:

PID: 2320

Student ID: 140585526231784 pcount: 94608962687664

run\_delay: 0

last\_arrival: 94608962687168 last\_queued: 140735277510480

Succeed and finish!

If the compilation ends successfully, copy the output file to /usr/lib. (Remember to add sudo before cp command).

QUESTION: Why we must put -share and -fpic option into gcc command?.

- -Share: indicates that a shared library is generated.
- -FPIC: indicates that using position independent cache.

The shared object can be loaded to different positions by different processes.

The purpose is to fulfill the request that compile source code as a shared to allow user to integrate our system call to their applications