

Lab 1 - Adding Shell Commands

Sam Alcosser
Samuel.Alcosser1@Marist.edu

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1 Answers to Questions

1. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the same system call interface for manipulating both files and devices?
 - The advantages of using the same system call interface for both files and devices is that it makes it much easier to implement new code. The fact that these devices can be accessed as if they were just merely files makes this process much easier. However, the disadvantage is that the devices are now limited by the file access API.
2. Would it be possible for the user to develop a new command interpreter using the system call interface provide by the operating system? How?
 - It would definitely be possible for a user to develop a new command interpreter using the system call interface. Because of the fact that the system call interface hides all of the complicated workings of actual system calls, user would only have to be familiar with how to utilize the API. This way, the user (or developer) could do all of the development work in a higher level view. However, the user/developer should be familiar with system calls as well so that the developer can have a good idea of how to best utilize the API.