

Assignment C-3

TITLE: Study of UNIX system calls for process management.

PROBLEM STATEMENT: Implement UNIX system calls like ps, fork, join, exec family, and wait for process management (use shell script/ Java/ C programming).

OBJECTIVE:

- To get familiar with Linux programming.
- To study basic Linux commands and utilities.
- Learn process and thread management calls in Linux.

S/W and H/W

Requirements:

- C/C++ editors and compilers for Linux OS
- Linux OS/Fedora/Ubuntu
- PC with the configuration as
- Pentium IV 2.4 GHz. 1 GB RAM, 40 G.B HDD, 15’’Color Monitor, Keyboard, Mouse

OUTCOME:

We will be able to

- Execute basic Linux commands.
- Make use of Linux system calls related to process management.
- Implement and execute programs in Linux environment.

THEORY:

- **fork** - create a child process

```
#include <sys/types.h>
```

```
#include <unistd.h>
```

```
pid_t fork(void);
```

fork() creates a new process by duplicating the calling process. The new process is referred to as the child process. The calling process is referred to as the parent process.

The child process is an exact duplicate of the parent process except for the following points:

- The child has its own unique process ID, and this PID does not match the ID of any existing process group or session.
- The child's parent process ID is the same as the parent's process ID.

Return Value

On success, the PID of the child process is returned in the parent, and 0 is returned in the child. On failure, -1 is returned in the parent, no child process is created.

- An exec call will load a *new* program into the process and replace the current running program with the one specified. For example, consider this program, which will execute the ls -l command in the current directory.

There are three main versions of exec which we will focus on:

- `execv(char * path, char * argv[])` : given the path to the program and an argument array, load and execute the program
- `execvp(char * file, char * argv[])` : given a file(name) of the program and an argument array, find the file in the environment PATH and execute the program
- `execvpe(char * file, char * argv[], char * envp[])` given a file(name), an argument array, and the environment settings, within the environment, search the PATH for the program named file and execute with the arguments.

Waiting on a child with wait()

The wait() system call is used by a parent process to *wait* for the status of the child to change. A status change can occur for a number of reasons, the program stopped or continued, but we'll only concern ourselves with the most common status change: the program terminated or exited. (We will discuss stopped and continued in later lessons.)

System calls provide the interface between a process and the operating system. *These system calls are the routine services of the operating system.*

Linux system call fork () creates a process Exec() ,join() etc.

Steps:

1. Study the various Linux process handling system calls.
2. Execute basic Linux commands.
3. Print the information about a process its task structure ids etc.

Conclusion: Thus, we successfully studied and implemented UNIX system calls for process management.