Chapter 2: Operating-System Structures



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The class needs a note taker

If you:

- Are interested in becoming the designated note taker
- Will attend class regularly
- Please see me after class (or email me with your grades of 200, 201).
- You will receive \$100 at the end of the semester





Objectives

- Identify services provided by an operating system
- Illustrate how system calls are used to provide operating system services
- Compare and contrast monolithic, layered, microkernel, modular, and hybrid strategies for designing operating systems
- Illustrate the process for booting an operating system
- Apply tools for monitoring operating system performance
- Design and implement kernel modules for interacting with a Linux kernel



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Chapter 2: Operating-System Structures

- Operating System Services
- User and Operating System-Interface
- System Calls
- System Services
- Linkers and Loaders
- Why Applications are Operating System Specific
- Operating-System Design and Implementation
- Operating System Structure
- Building and Booting an Operating System
- Operating System Debugging



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Operating System Services

- Operating systems provide an environment for execution of programs and services to programs and users
- Services provides functions that are helpful to the user:
 - User interface Almost all operating systems have a user interface (UI).
 - Varies between Command-Line (CLI), Graphics User Interface (GUI), Batch
 - Program execution The system must be able to load a program into memory and to run that program, end execution, either normally or abnormally (indicating error)
 - I/O operations A running program may require I/O, which may involve a file or an I/O device



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Operating System Services (Cont.)

- helpful to the <u>user</u> (Cont.):
 - File-system manipulation The file system is of particular interest. Programs need to read and write files and directories, create and delete them, search them, list file Information, permission management.
 - Communications Processes may exchange information, on the same computer or between computers over a network
 - Communications may be via shared memory or through message passing (packets moved by the OS)
 - Error detection OS constantly aware of possible errors
 - May occur in the CPU and memory hardware, in I/O devices, in user program
 - For each type of error, OS should take the appropriate action to ensure correct and consistent computing
 - Debugging facilities can greatly enhance the user's and programmer's abilities to efficiently use the system



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Operating System Services (Cont.)

- Functions for ensuring the efficient operation of the system itself via resource sharing
 - Resource allocation When multiple users or multiple jobs running concurrently, resources must be allocated to each of them
 - Many types of resources CPU cycles, main memory, file storage, I/O devices.
 - Accounting To keep track of which users use how much and what kinds of computer resources
 - Protection and security The owners of information stored in a multiuser or networked computer system may want to control use of that information, concurrent processes should not interfere with each other
 - Protection involves ensuring that all access to system resources is controlled
 - Security of the system from outsiders requires user authentication, extends to defending external I/O devices from invalid access attempts

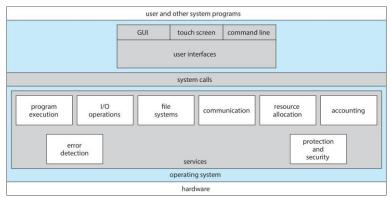
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A View of Operating System Services



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User Operating System Interface - CLI

CLI or command interpreter allows direct command entry

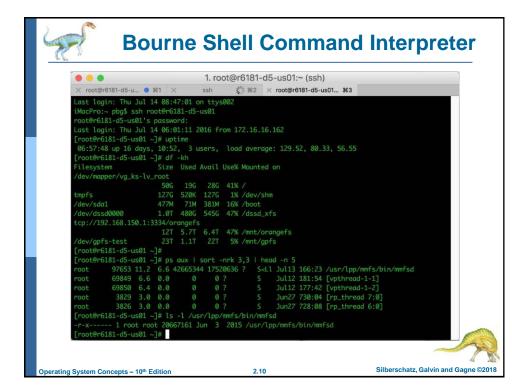
- Sometimes implemented in kernel, sometimes by systems program
- Sometimes multiple flavors implemented shells
- Primarily fetches a command from user and executes it
- Sometimes commands built-in, sometimes just names of programs
 - If the latter, adding new features doesn't require shell modification



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User Operating System Interface - GUI

- User-friendly desktop metaphor interface
 - Usually mouse, keyboard, and monitor
 - Icons represent files, programs, actions, etc
 - Various mouse buttons over objects in the interface cause various actions (provide information, options, execute function, open directory (known as a folder)
 - Invented at Xerox PARC
- Many systems now include both CLI and GUI interfaces
 - Microsoft Windows is GUI with CLI "command" shell
 - Apple Mac OS X is "Aqua" GUI interface with UNIX kernel underneath and shells available
 - Unix and Linux have CLI with optional GUI interfaces (CDE, KDE, GNOME)



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Touchscreen Interfaces

- Touchscreen devices require new interfaces
 - · Mouse not possible or not desired
 - Actions and selection based on gestures
 - Virtual keyboard for text entry
- Voice commands



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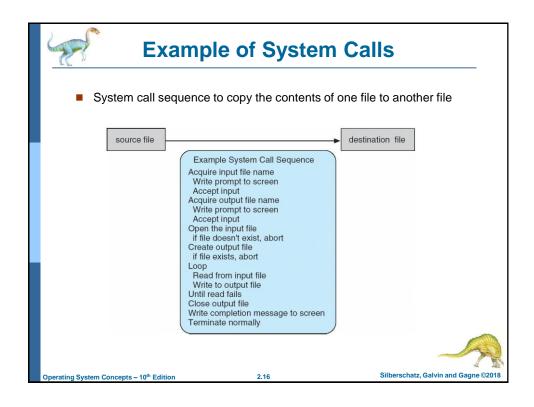
System Calls

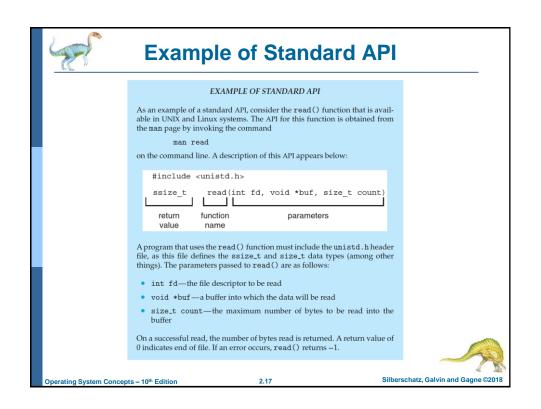
- Programming interface to the services provided by the OS
- Typically written in a high-level language (C or C++)
- Mostly accessed by programs via a high-level Application Programming Interface (API) rather than direct system call use
- Three most common APIs are Win32 API for Windows, POSIX API for POSIX-based systems (including virtually all versions of UNIX, Linux, and Mac OS X), and Java API for the Java virtual machine (JVM)

Note that the system-call names used throughout this text are generic

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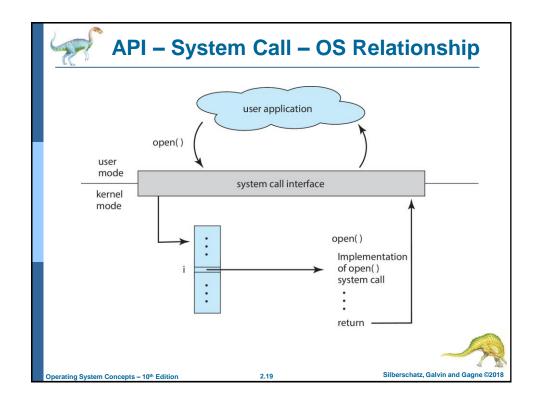
System Call Implementation

- Typically, a number associated with each system call
 - System-call interface maintains a table indexed according to these numbers
- The system call interface invokes the intended system call in OS kernel and returns status of the system call and any return values
- The caller need know nothing about how the system call is implemented
 - Just needs to obey API and understand what OS will do as a result call
 - Most details of OS interface hidden from programmer by API
 - Managed by run-time support library (set of functions built into libraries included with compiler)



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System Call Parameter Passing

- Often, more information is required than simply identity of desired system call
 - Exact type and amount of information vary according to OS and call
- Three general methods used to pass parameters to the OS
 - Simplest: pass the parameters in registers
 - In some cases, may be more parameters than registers
 - Parameters stored in a block, or table, in memory, and address of block passed as a parameter in a register
 - This approach taken by Linux and Solaris
 - Parameters placed, or pushed, onto the stack by the program and popped off the stack by the operating system
 - Block and stack methods do not limit the number or length of parameters being passed



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Types of System Calls

- Process control
 - create process, terminate process
 - end, abort
 - load, execute
 - get process attributes, set process attributes
 - wait for time
 - wait event, signal event
 - allocate and free memory
 - Dump memory if error
 - Debugger for determining bugs, single step execution
 - Locks for managing access to shared data between processes



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Types of System Calls (cont.)

- File management
 - create file, delete file
 - open, close file
 - · read, write, reposition
 - get and set file attributes
- Device management
 - · request device, release device
 - read, write, reposition
 - get device attributes, set device attributes
 - · logically attach or detach devices



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Types of System Calls (Cont.)

- Information maintenance
 - · get time or date, set time or date
 - get system data, set system data
 - get and set process, file, or device attributes
- Communications
 - create, delete communication connection
 - send, receive messages if message passing model to host name or process name
 - > From client to server
 - Shared-memory model create and gain access to memory regions
 - transfer status information
 - attach and detach remote devices



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Types of System Calls (Cont.)

- Protection
 - · Control access to resources
 - Get and set permissions
 - Allow and deny user access



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Examples of Windows and Unix System Calls

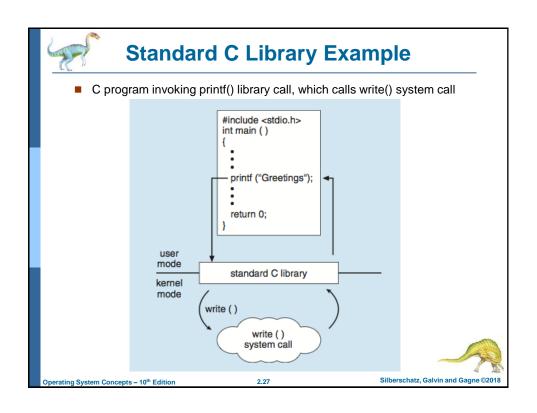
EXAMPLES OF WINDOWS AND UNIX SYSTEM CALLS

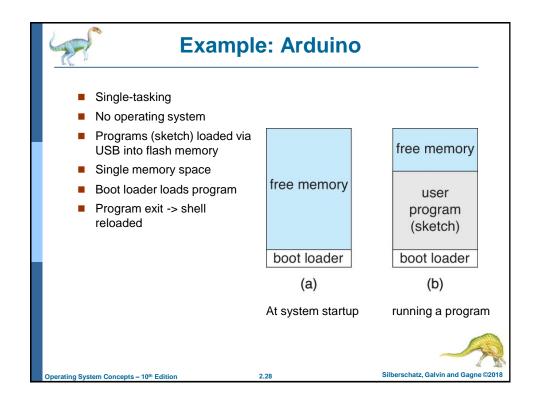
The following illustrates various equivalent system calls for Windows and UNIX operating systems. $\,$

	Windows	Unix
Process	CreateProcess()	fork()
control	ExitProcess()	exit()
	WaitForSingleObject()	wait()
File	CreateFile()	open()
management	ReadFile()	read()
Ü	WriteFile()	write()
	CloseHandle()	close()
Device	SetConsoleMode()	ioctl()
management	ReadConsole()	read()
	WriteConsole()	write()
Information	GetCurrentProcessID()	getpid()
maintenance	SetTimer()	alarm()
	Sleep()	sleep()
Communications	<pre>CreatePipe() CreateFileMapping() MapViewOfFile()</pre>	<pre>pipe() shm_open() mmap()</pre>
Protection	SetFileSecurity() InitlializeSecurityDescriptor() SetSecurityDescriptorGroup()	chmod() umask() chown()

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Example: FreeBSD

- Unix variant
- Multitasking
- User login -> invoke user's choice of shell
- Shell executes fork() system call to create
 - Executes exec() to load program into process
 - · Shell waits for process to terminate or continues with user commands
- Process exits with:
 - code = 0 no error
 - code > 0 error code

high memory kernel free memory process C interpreter process B

memory

process D



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System Services

- System programs provide a convenient environment for program development and execution. They can be divided into:
 - File manipulation
 - Status information sometimes stored in a file
 - Programming language support
 - · Program loading and execution
 - Communications
 - Background services
 - Application programs
- Most users' view of the operation system is defined by system programs, not the actual system calls



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System Services (cont.)

- Provide a convenient environment for program development and execution
 - Some of them are simply user interfaces to system calls; others are considerably more complex
- File management Create, delete, copy, rename, print, dump, list, and generally manipulate files and directories

Status information

- Some ask the system for info date, time, amount of available memory, disk space, number of users
- Others provide detailed performance, logging, and debugging information
- Typically, these programs format and print the output to the terminal or other output devices
- Some systems implement a registry used to store and retrieve configuration information



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System Services (Cont.)

File modification

- Text editors to create and modify files
- Special commands to search contents of files or perform transformations of the text
- Programming-language support Compilers, assemblers, debuggers and interpreters sometimes provided
- Program loading and execution- Absolute loaders, relocatable loaders, linkage editors, and overlay-loaders, debugging systems for higher-level and machine language
- Communications Provide the mechanism for creating virtual connections among processes, users, and computer systems
 - Allow users to send messages to one another's screens, browse web pages, send electronic-mail messages, log in remotely, transfer files from one machine to another



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System Services (Cont.)

Background Services

- Launch at boot time
 - Some for system startup, then terminate
 - Some from system boot to shutdown
- Provide facilities like disk checking, process scheduling, error logging, printing
- Run in user context not kernel context
- Known as services, subsystems, daemons

Application programs

- Don't pertain to system
- Run by users
- Not typically considered part of OS
- Launched by command line, mouse click, finger poke



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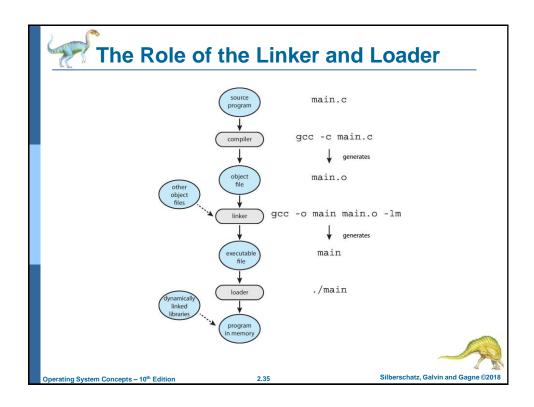
Linkers and Loaders

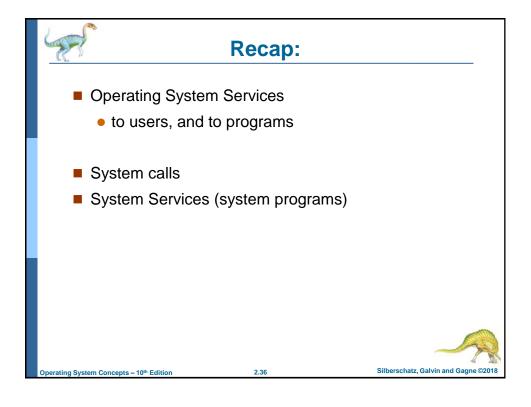
- Source code compiled into object files designed to be loaded into any physical memory location – relocatable object file
- Linker combines these into single binary executable file
 - Also brings in libraries
- Program resides on secondary storage as binary executable
- Must be brought into memory by loader to be executed
 - Relocation assigns final addresses to program parts and adjusts code and data in program to match those addresses
- Modern general purpose systems don't link libraries into executables
 - Rather, dynamically linked libraries (in Windows, DLLs) are loaded as needed, shared by all that use the same version of that same library (loaded once)
- Object, executable files have standard formats, so operating system knows how to load and start them



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Why Applications are Operating System Specific

- Apps compiled on one system usually not executable on other operating systems
- Each operating system provides its own unique system calls
 - Own file formats, etc
- Apps can be multi-operating system
 - Written in interpreted language like Python, Ruby, and interpreter available on multiple operating systems
 - App written in language that includes a VM containing the running app (like Java)
 - Use standard language (like C), compile separately on each operating system to run on each
- Application Binary Interface (ABI) is architecture equivalent of API, defines how different components of binary code can interface for a given operating system on a given architecture, CPU, etc



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Operating System Design and Implementation

- Design and Implementation of OS not "solvable", but some approaches have proven successful
- Internal structure of different Operating Systems can vary widely
- Start the design by defining goals and specifications
- Affected by choice of hardware, type of system
- User goals and System goals
 - User goals operating system should be convenient to use, easy to learn, reliable, safe, and fast
 - System goals operating system should be easy to design, implement, and maintain, as well as flexible, reliable, error-free, and efficient



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Operating System Design and Implementation (Cont.)

- Important principle to separate
 - Policy: What will be done?
 Mechanism: How to do it?
- Mechanisms determine how to do something, policies decide what will be done
- The separation of policy from mechanism is a very important principle, it allows maximum flexibility if policy decisions are to be changed later (example – timer)
- Specifying and designing an OS is highly creative task of software engineering



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Implementation

- Much variation
 - Early OSes in assembly language
 - Then system programming languages like Algol, PL/1
 - Now C, C++
- Actually usually a mix of languages
 - Lowest levels in assembly
 - Main body in C
 - Systems programs in C, C++, scripting languages like PERL, Python, shell scripts
- More high-level language easier to port to other hardware
 - But slower
- Emulation can allow an OS to run on non-native hardware



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Operating System Structure

- General-purpose OS is very large program
- Various ways to structure ones
 - Simple structure MS-DOS
 - More complex -- UNIX
 - Layered an abstraction
 - Microkernel –Mach
 - Modules
 - Hybrids



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Monolithic Structure - Original UNIX

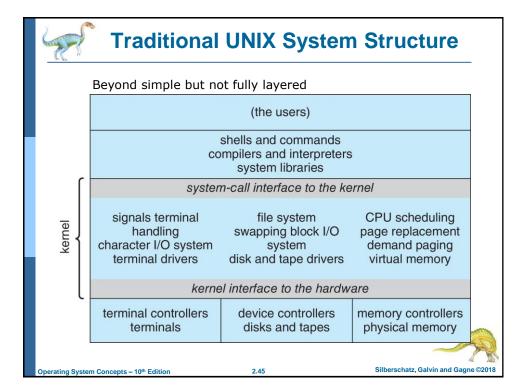
UNIX – limited by hardware functionality, the original UNIX operating system had limited structuring. The UNIX OS consists of two separable parts

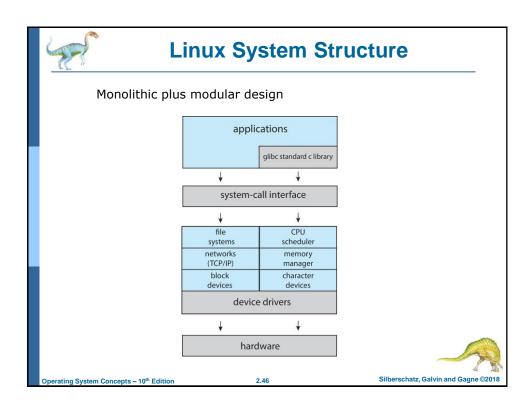
- Systems programs
- The kernel
 - Consists of everything below the system-call interface and above the physical hardware
 - Provides the file system, CPU scheduling, memory management, and other operating-system functions; a large number of functions for one level

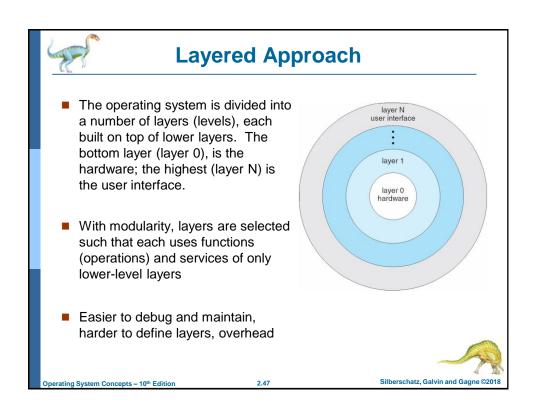


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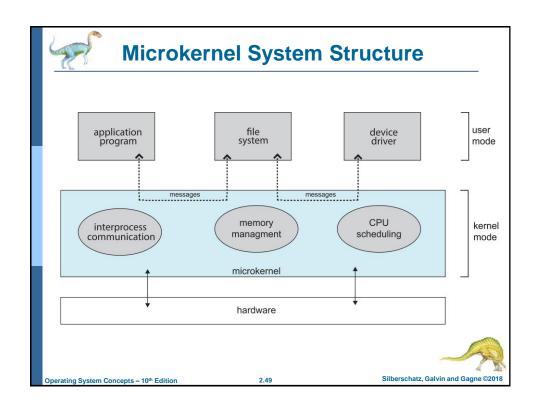
Microkernel System Structure

- Moves as much from the kernel into user space
- Mach example of microkernel
 - Mac OS X kernel (Darwin) partly based on Mach
- Communication takes place between user modules using message passing
- Benefits:
 - Easier to extend a microkernel
 - Easier to port the operating system to new architectures
 - More reliable (less code is running in kernel mode)
 - More secure
- Detriments:
 - Performance overhead of user space to kernel space communication



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Modules

- Many modern operating systems implement loadable kernel modules (LKMs)
 - Uses object-oriented approach
 - Each core component is separate
 - Each talks to the others over known interfaces
 - Each is loadable as needed within the kernel
- Overall, similar to layers but with more flexible
 - Linux, Solaris, etc



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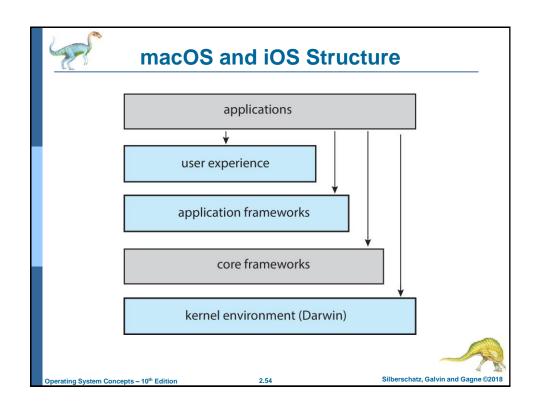
Hybrid Systems

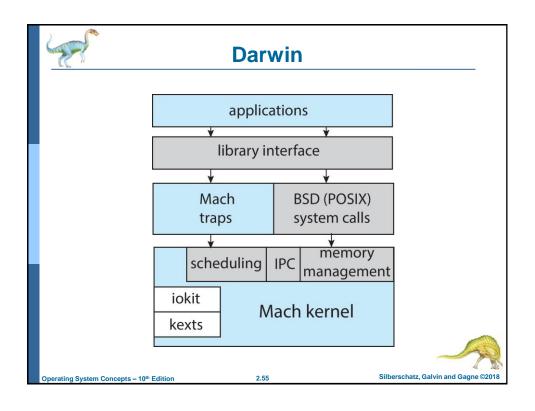
- Most modern operating systems are actually not one pure model
 - Hybrid combines multiple approaches to address performance, security, usability needs
 - Linux and Solaris kernels in kernel address space, so monolithic, plus modular for dynamic loading of functionality
 - Windows mostly monolithic, plus microkernel for different subsystem personalities
- Apple Mac OS X hybrid, layered, Aqua UI plus Cocoa programming environment
 - Below is kernel consisting of Mach microkernel and BSD Unix parts, plus I/O kit and dynamically loadable modules (called kernel extensions)



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Android

- Developed by Open Handset Alliance (mostly Google)
 - Open Source
- Similar stack to IOS
- Based on Linux kernel but modified
 - Provides process, memory, device-driver management
 - Adds power management
- Runtime environment includes core set of libraries and Dalvik virtual machine
 - Apps developed in Java plus Android API
 - Java class files compiled to Java bytecode then translated to executable than runs in Dalvik VM
- Libraries include frameworks for web browser (webkit), database (SQLite), multimedia, smaller libc

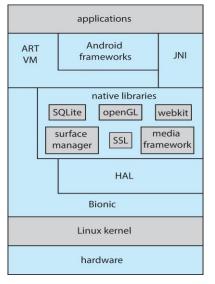
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Android Architecture



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Building and Booting an Operating System

- Operating systems generally designed to run on a class of systems with variety of peripherals
- Commonly, operating system already installed on purchased computer
 - But can build and install some other operating systems
 - If generating an operating system from scratch
 - Write the operating system source code
 - Configure the operating system for the system on which it will run
 - Compile the operating system
 - Install the operating system
 - Boot the computer and its new operating system



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System Boot

- When power initialized on system, execution starts at a fixed memory location
- Operating system must be made available to hardware so hardware can start it
 - Small piece of code bootstrap loader, BIOS, stored in ROM or EEPROM locates the kernel, loads it into memory, and starts it
 - Sometimes two-step process where boot block at fixed location loaded by ROM code, which loads bootstrap loader from disk
 - Modern systems replace BIOS with Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI)
- Common bootstrap loader, GRUB, allows selection of kernel from multiple disks, versions, kernel options
- Kernel loads and system is then running
- Boot loaders frequently allow various boot states, such as single user mode



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Operating-System Debugging

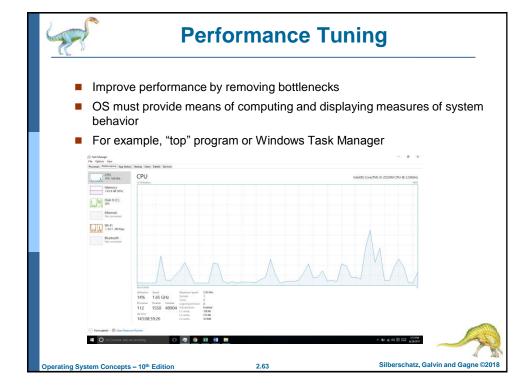
- Debugging is finding and fixing errors, or bugs
- Also performance tuning
- OS generate log files containing error information
- Failure of an application can generate core dump file capturing memory of the process
- Operating system failure can generate crash dump file containing kernel memory
- Beyond crashes, performance tuning can optimize system performance
 - Sometimes using trace listings of activities, recorded for analysis
 - Profiling is periodic sampling of instruction pointer to look for statistical trends

Kernighan's Law: "Debugging is twice as hard as writing the code in the first place. Therefore, if you write the code as cleverly as possible, you are, by definition, not smart enough to debug it."



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Tracing

- Collects data for a specific event, such as steps involved in a system call invocation
- Tools include
 - strace trace system calls invoked by a process
 - gdb source-level debugger
 - perf collection of Linux performance tools
 - tcpdump collects network packets



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