Computer Architecture and Technology Area

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid



OPERATING SYSTEMS

Lab 1. System Calls

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**1. Description of Code**

**mycat**

**myls**

**mysize**

**1. Description of Tests**

**mycat**

The first program, **mycat**, was intended to open a file specified by argument and show the “whole contents” of the file through standard output using the calls *open, read, write,* and *close*.

*Test 1: Basic Functionality*

Evidently, **mycat** should thus accomplish the same functionality as the built-in Linux function **cat**. Thus, our first test of **mycat** included a comparison of the output of running the program on f1.txt, a small file provided in the p1\_tests directory, with the output of running **cat** on f1.txt. We would expect the output to be the same, and indeed, the output was the same. This thus proved that **mycat** indeed reads files with content and writes such content to standard output because that is what **cat** does.

*Test 2: Functionality with Empty Files*

One edge case to test is whether or not **mycat** knows how to handle empty files. This is important because having 0 bytes of content in the file should function no differently than having >0B of content as the “read” function should still return a non-negative number for such a file (it would return 0 to be precise) such that the read and write loop still functions correctly, treating a 0B content file the same way as a 7B content file. The only way “reading” would fail is if <0 is returned from the read function, which should not be the case if 0 is returned. Thus, we tested whether running **mycat** on f3.txt, an empty file added to the p1\_tests directory, resulted in no error, nor any output as was our expectation. Because it resulted in neither, we are confident that **mycat** can correctly read and write the contents of a 0-byte file.

*Test 3: Functionality with Large Files*

Another edge case to test is on the opposite end—whether or not **mycat** knows how to handle large files. This is important because even if the number of bytes in the file surpasses the buffer size, the buffer should have no problem reading and writing a set amount of bytes (1024 in this case), and then reading and writing in the next set amount of 1024B in the file, and so on for however many bytes are in the file. Thus, no matter what, the entire contents of a file should be written out and processed because all that will happen is that 1024B are read at a time, until the end of the file is reached. We thus created f4.txt, a file of 75KB that we added to the p1\_tests directory, and on which we ran **mycat**, expecting no errors, and the entirety of the file output. Doing so resulted in no errors, and every character of f4.txt was actually output, so we know **mycat** is successful on larger files.

*Test 4. Functionality with Files with no-read permission*

Another edge case to test is to ensure **mycat** results in an error when a file cannot be read. We thus added file f5.txt, a file with no read-write-execute permissions (changed by the command **chmod 000 f5.txt**), and tested **mycat** on it, expecting permission errors when ran because reading it should return -1, indicating program failure. Indeed, we received an “Error opening file: Permission Denied” error when ran, successfully guaranteeing that **mycat** understands file permissions and cannot read the contents of a non-readable file, and thus cannot output its contents.

**myls**

The second program, **myls**, was intended to open a directory passed as a parameter (or the current directory if none specified), and print on separate lines, all entries in the directory using the commands *opendir, readdir, printf,* and *closedir*.

*Test 1. Basic Functionality*

Evidently, **myls** should list the same directory entries, in the same order that are listed when **ls –f –l** is called (which lists directory contents unsorted). This is because **myls** was intended to have the same functionality as **ls,** which reads the contents of a directory and lists all of them. Thus, our first test of **myls** included a comparison of the output of **myls** and **ls –f -l** both on the current directory (by specifying no directory). And indeed, the output corresponded, with both commands listing the existence of the same 15 files/directories in the same order. The lack of errors with no directory specified also affirms the correct default functionality of **myls** in listing current directory entries if a specific directory is not specified.

*Test 2. Functionality with Empty Directories*

An edge case to test is whether **myls** works on directories that have no explicit file or directory contents. It should work, with your expectations being that the only things that would get listed with **myls** are . and .., references to the current directory and parent directory, but not explicitly listing any other contents since there are none. Even with an empty directory, **myls**, should still be able to function in reading the directory since the only time “readdir” fails (i.e. returns NULL, which signals the program to return -1) is if the directory cannot be accessed, which is not the case with empty directories (unless set to be). And indeed, when running **myls** on a created empty directory with read-write-execute access, “empty,” there are no errors, and only . and .. listed as entries.

*Test 3. Functionality with Non-Directories*

Another edge case to test is that **myls** does not work when the argument specified is a file, not a directory. We would expect that when **myls** is run on a file, that “opendir” will return NULL, because there is no directory stream to which it can point. Returning NULL would lead to the program returning -1, indicating a failure, and the error, which we expect to be a compatibility error, would be printed. And indeed, when we ran **myls** on mycat.c, a file, we could a “couldn’t open directory: Not a directory” error, indicating that opendir had correctly failed to stop the completion of **myls**, which is necessary because a file does not have directory entries to list since it is not a directory.

*Test 4. Functionality with Directories with no-read permission*

Another edge case to test is that **myls** does not work when the directory specified as the argument has no read permissions. This is because “opendir” would fail (i.e. return NULL) if a directory is not accessible, to signal the program should return -1. Thus, you would expect that running **myls** on a directory with no read permissions would return a permission error. Indeed, running **myls** on “noread,” a directory created with no read-write-execute permissions (by the command **chmod 000 noread**), returned a “couldn’t open directory: Permission denied” error, and inhibited the completion of **myls**, which is correct because it should not be able to read and list the contents of a directory it does not have access to.

**mysize**

The third program, **mysize**,