

CPSC 457 – Assignment 1

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Q1)

- a) 83.3×10^6 instructions
- b) 166.67×10^6 instructions

Q2)

- a) Reducing cost by buying 1 large server and running multiple smaller virtual servers on it
- b) Running conflicting processes in separate virtual machines
- c) Using a potentially unsafe program in a VM to protect the main system
- d) Ability to create multiple virtual servers on the same physical server to separate processes

Q3)

- a) Interrupts are signals generated by hardware to the CPU that invoke a kernel routine to handle a certain operation such as I/O
- b) Traps are signals generated by the CPU itself that invoke a kernel routine to handle either:
 - 1) an exception, such as dividing by zero
 - 2) a special instruction
- c) Interrupts are generated by hardware and sent to the CPU whereas traps are self-imposed by the CPU. Interrupts may occur at any time and are asynchronous with CPU operations while traps occur when an instruction is executed and are synchronous with CPU activity.
- d) User mode does not allow access to hardware whereas kernel mode has full access to hardware and can talk to drivers. Additionally, user mode has a limited instruction set while kernel mode has access to the full CPU instruction set.

Q4)

a) CountLines:

```
real 0m0.073s
user 0m0.012s
sys  0m0.061s
```

wc:

```
real 0m0.003s
user 0m0.000s
sys  0m0.003s
```

- b) The C++ program spent 0.061s in kernel mode and 0.012 in user mode.
The wc program spent 0.003s in kernel mode and 0.000s in user mode.
- c) The C++ program performs a read() system call for every single character in the program while 'wc' reads the whole file at once

Q5)

myWc:

real 0m0.006s

user 0m0.004s

sys 0m0.002s

The program spent 0.001s less in kernel mode than 'wc' but 0.004s more in user mode