



# CHANDIGARH UNIVERSITY

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## **UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE OF ENGINEERING**

### **Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Science & Engineering)**

### **Operating System (CST-328)**

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# **Lecture 4**

**System calls**

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**Types of system calls**

# 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

# System Call Implementation

- Typically, a number associated with each system call
  - **System-call interface** maintains a table indexed with this number
- 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)

# 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

# Types of System Calls

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

# 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

# Conclusion

This topic gives the learner a deep insight to system calls, system calls interface, system calls implementation and system calls types.



# References

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