JDEP 284H
Foundations of Computer Systems

Exceptional Control Flow Part II

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Giving credit where credit is due

- **Most of slides for this lecture are based on slides created by Drs. Bryant and O'Hallaron, Carnegie Mellon University.**
- **I have modified them and added new slides.**

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Topics

- **Process Hierarchy**
- **Shells**
- **Signals**
- **Nonlocal jumps**

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ECF Exists at All Levels of a System

Exceptions
- **Hardware and operating system kernel software**

Concurrent processes
- **Hardware timer and kernel software**

Signals
- **Kernel software**

Non-local jumps
- **Application code**

Previous Lecture

This Lecture

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The World of Multitasking

System Runs Many Processes Concurrently
- **Process: executing program**
  - **State consists of memory image + register values + program counter**
- **Continually switches from one process to another**
  - **Suspend process when it needs I/O resource or timer event occurs**
  - **Resume process when I/O available or given scheduling priority**
- **Appears to user(s) as if all processes executing simultaneously**
  - **Even though most systems can only execute one process at a time**
  - **Except possibly with lower performance than if running alone**

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Programmer's Model of Multitasking

Basic Functions
- `fork()` **spawns new process**
  - **Called once, returns twice**
- `exit()` **terminates own process**
  - **Called once, never returns**
  - **Puts it into "zombie" status**
- `wait()` **and** `waitpid()` **wait for and reap terminated children**
- `execl()` **and** `execve()` **run a new program in an existing process**
  - **Called once, (normally) never returns**

Programming Challenge
- **Understanding the nonstandard semantics of the functions**
- **Avoiding improper use of system resources**
  - **E.g. "Fork bombs" can disable a system.**

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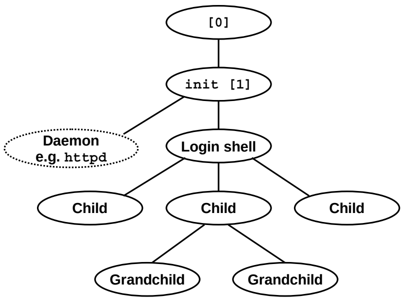
Unix Process Hierarchy



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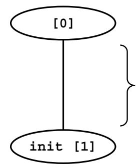
Unix Startup: Step 1

1. Pushing reset button loads the `PC` with the address of a small bootstrap program.
2. Bootstrap program loads the boot block (disk block 0).
3. Boot block program loads kernel binary (e.g., `/boot/vmlinux`)
4. Boot block program passes control to kernel.
5. Kernel handcrafts the data structures for process 0.



Process 0: handcrafted kernel process

Process 0 forks child process 1

Child process 1 execs `/sbin/init`

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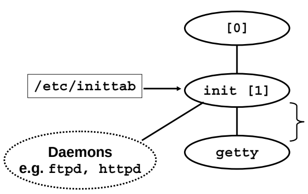
Unix Startup: Step 2



`init` forks and execs daemons per `/etc/inittab`, and forks and execs a `getty` program for the console

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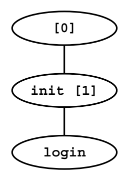
Unix Startup: Step 3



The `getty` process execs a `login` program

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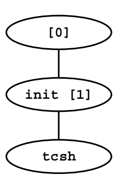
Unix Startup: Step 4



`login` reads login and passwd.
if OK, it execs a *shell.*
if not OK, it execs another `getty`

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Shell Programs

A *shell* is an application program that runs programs on behalf of the user.

- `sh` – Original Unix Bourne Shell
- `csh` – BSD Unix C Shell, `tcsh` – Enhanced C Shell
- `bash` –Bourne-Again Shell

```
int main()
{
    char cmdline[MAXLINE];

    while (1) {
        /* read */
        printf("> ");
        fgets(cmdline, MAXLINE, stdin);
        if (feof(stdin))
            exit(0);

        /* evaluate */
        eval(cmdline);
    }
}
```

Execution is a sequence of read/evaluate steps

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Simple Shell `eval` Function

```
void eval(char *cmdline)
{
    char *argv[MAXARGS]; /* argv for execve() */
    int bg;              /* should the job run in bg or fg? */
    pid_t pid;           /* process id */

    bg = parseline(cmdline, argv);
    if (!builtin_command(argv)) {
       if ((pid = Fork()) == 0) {   /* child runs user job */
           if (execve(argv[0], argv, environ) < 0) {
              printf("%s: Command not found.\n", argv[0]);
              exit(0);
           }
       }

       if (!bg) {   /* parent waits for fg job to terminate */
           int status;
           if (waitpid(pid, &status, 0) < 0)
              unix_error("waitfg: waitpid error");
       }
       else         /* otherwise, don't wait for bg job */
           printf("%d %s", pid, cmdline);
    }
}
```


Problem with Simple Shell Example

Shell correctly waits for and reaps foreground jobs.

But what about background jobs?

- Will become zombies when they terminate.
- Will never be reaped because shell (typically) will not terminate.
- Creates a memory leak that will eventually crash the kernel when it runs out of memory.

Solution: Reaping background jobs requires a mechanism called a *signal*.

Signals

A *signal* is a small message that notifies a process that an event of some type has occurred in the system.

- Kernel abstraction for exceptions and interrupts.
- Sent from the kernel (sometimes at the request of another process) to a process.
- Different signals are identified by small integer ID's
- The only information in a signal is its ID and the fact that it arrived.

ID	Name	Default Action	Corresponding Event
2	`SIGINT`	Terminate	Interrupt from keyboard (`ctl-c`)
9	`SIGKILL`	Terminate	Kill program (cannot override or ignore)
11	`SIGSEGV`	Terminate & Dump	Segmentation violation
14	`SIGALRM`	Terminate	Timer signal
17	`SIGCHLD`	Ignore	Child stopped or terminated

Signal Concepts

Sending a signal

- Kernel *sends* (delivers) a signal to a *destination process* by updating some state in the context of the destination process.
- Kernel sends a signal for one of the following reasons:
  - Kernel has detected a system event such as divide-by-zero (SIGFPE) or the termination of a child process (SIGCHLD)
  - Another process has invoked the `kill` system call to explicitly request the kernel to send a signal to the destination process.

Signal Concepts (cont)

Receiving a signal

- A destination process *receives* a signal when it is forced by the kernel to react in some way to the delivery of the signal.
- Three possible ways to react:
  - Ignore the signal (do nothing)
  - Terminate the process.
  - *Catch* the signal by executing a user-level function called a signal handler.
    - » Akin to a hardware exception handler being called in response to an asynchronous interrupt.

Signal Concepts (cont)

A signal is *pending* if it has been sent but not yet received.

- There can be at most one pending signal of any particular type.
- Important: Signals are not queued
  - If a process has a pending signal of type k, then subsequent signals of type k that are sent to that process are discarded.

A process can *block* the receipt of certain signals.

- Blocked signals can be delivered, but will not be received until the signal is unblocked.

A pending signal is received at most once.

Signal Concepts

Kernel maintains `pending` and `blocked` bit vectors in the context of each process.

- `pending` – represents the set of pending signals
  - Kernel sets bit k in `pending` whenever a signal of type k is delivered.
  - Kernel clears bit k in `pending` whenever a signal of type k is received
- `blocked` – represents the set of blocked signals
  - Can be set and cleared by the application using the `sigprocmask` function.

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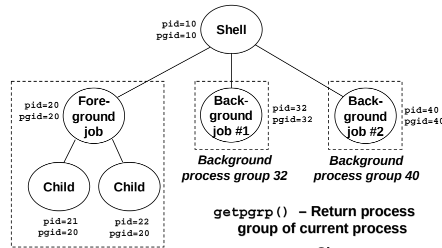
Process Groups

Every process belongs to exactly one process group



Foreground process group 20

`getpgrp()` – Return process group of current process

`setpgid()` – Change process group of a process

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Sending Signals with `kill` Program

`kill` program sends arbitrary signal to a process or process group

Examples

- `kill -9 24818`
  - Send SIGKILL to process 24818
- `kill -9 -24817`
  - Send SIGKILL to every process in process group 24817.

```
linux> ./forks 16
linux> Child1: pid=24818 pgrp=24817
Child2: pid=24819 pgrp=24817

linux> ps
  PID TTY          TIME CMD
24788 pts/2    00:00:00 tcsh
24818 pts/2    00:00:02 forks
24819 pts/2    00:00:02 forks
24820 pts/2    00:00:00 ps
linux> kill -9 -24817
linux> ps
  PID TTY          TIME CMD
24788 pts/2    00:00:00 tcsh
24823 pts/2    00:00:00 ps
linux>
```

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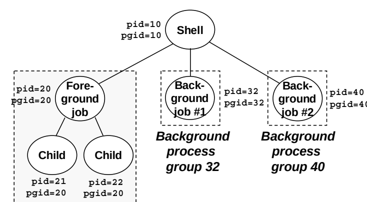
Sending Signals from the Keyboard

Typing ctrl-c (ctrl-z) sends a SIGTERM (SIGTSTP) to every job in the foreground process group.

- SIGTERM – default action is to terminate each process
- SIGTSTP – default action is to stop (suspend) each process



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Example of `ctrl-c` and `ctrl-z`

```
linux> ./forks 17
Child: pid=24868 pgrp=24867
Parent: pid=24867 pgrp=24867
 <typed ctrl-z>
Suspended
linux> ps a
  PID TTY      STAT   TIME COMMAND
24788 pts/2    S      0:00 -usr/local/bin/tcsh -i
24867 pts/2    T      0:01 ./forks 17
24868 pts/2    T      0:01 ./forks 17
24869 pts/2    R      0:00 ps a
bass> fg
./forks 17
<typed ctrl-c>
linux> ps a
  PID TTY      STAT   TIME COMMAND
24788 pts/2    S      0:00 -usr/local/bin/tcsh -i
24870 pts/2    R      0:00 ps a
```

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Sending Signals with `kill` Function

```
void fork12()
{
    pid_t pid[N];
    int i, child_status;
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
        if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0)
            while(1); /* Child infinite loop */

    /* Parent terminates the child processes */
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        printf("Killing process %d\n", pid[i]);
        kill(pid[i], SIGINT);
    }

    /* Parent reaps terminated children */
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++) {
        pid_t wpid = wait(&child_status);
        if (WIFEXITED(child_status))
            printf("Child %d terminated with exit status %d\n",
                   wpid, WEXITSTATUS(child_status));
        else
            printf("Child %d terminated abnormally\n", wpid);
    }
}
```

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Receiving Signals

Suppose kernel is returning from exception handler and is ready to pass control to process *p*.

Kernel computes `pnb = pending & ~blocked`

- **The set of pending nonblocked signals for process *p***

If (`pnb == 0`)

- **Pass control to next instruction in the logical flow for *p*.**

Else

- **Choose least nonzero bit *k* in `pnb` and force process *p* to receive signal *k*.**
- **The receipt of the signal triggers some *action* by *p***
- **Repeat for all nonzero *k* in `pnb`.**
- **Pass control to next instruction in logical flow for *p*.**

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Default Actions

Each signal type has a predefined *default action*, which is one of:

- **The process terminates**
- **The process terminates and dumps core.**
- **The process stops until restarted by a SIGCONT signal.**
- **The process ignores the signal.**

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Installing Signal Handlers

The `signal` function modifies the default action associated with the receipt of signal `signum`:

- `handler_t *signal(int signum, handler_t *handler)`

Different values for `handler`:

- **SIG_IGN: ignore signals of type `signum`**
- **SIG_DFL: revert to the default action on receipt of signals of type `signum`.**
- **Otherwise, handler is the address of a *signal handler***
  - **Called when process receives signal of type `signum`**
  - **Referred to as "*installing*" the handler.**
  - **Executing handler is called "*catching*" or "*handling*" the signal.**
  - **When the handler executes its return statement, control passes back to instruction in the control flow of the process that was interrupted by receipt of the signal.**

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Signal Handling Example

```
void int_handler(int sig)
{
    printf("Process %d received signal %d\n",
           getpid(), sig);
    exit(0);
}

void fork13()
{
    pid_t pid[N];
    int i, child_status;
    signal(SIGINT, int_handler);

    . . .
}
```

```
linux> ./forks 13
Killing process 24973
Killing process 24974
Killing process 24975
Killing process 24976
Killing process 24977
Process 24977 received signal 2
Child 24977 terminated with exit status 0
Process 24976 received signal 2
Child 24976 terminated with exit status 0
Process 24975 received signal 2
Child 24975 terminated with exit status 0
Process 24974 received signal 2
Child 24974 terminated with exit status 0
Process 24973 received signal 2
Child 24973 terminated with exit status 0
linux>
```

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Signal Handler Funkiness

```
int ccount = 0;
void child_handler(int sig)
{
    int child_status;
    pid_t pid = wait(&child_status);
    ccount--;
    printf("Received signal %d from process %d\n",
           sig, pid);
}

void fork14()
{
    pid_t pid[N];
    int i, child_status;
    ccount = N;
    signal(SIGCHLD, child_handler);
    for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
        if ((pid[i] = fork()) == 0) {
            /* Child: Exit */
            exit(0);
        }
    while (ccount > 0)
        pause();/* Suspend until signal occurs */
}
```

Pending signals are not queued

- **For each signal type, just have single bit indicating whether or not signal is pending**
- **Even if multiple processes have sent this signal**

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Living With Nonqueuing Signals

Must check for all terminated jobs

- **Typically loop with `wait`**

```
void child_handler2(int sig)
{
    int child_status;
    pid_t pid;
    while ((pid = wait(&child_status)) > 0) {
        ccount--;
        printf("Received signal %d from process %d\n", sig,
pid);
    }
}

void fork15()
{
    . . .
    signal(SIGCHLD, child_handler2);
    . . .
}
```

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A Program That Reacts to Externally Generated Events (ctrl-c)

```
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include <signal.h>

void handler(int sig) {
  printf("You think hitting ctrl-c will stop the bomb?\n");
  sleep(2);
  printf("Well...");
  fflush(stdout);
  sleep(1);
  printf("OK\n");
  exit(0);
}

main() {
  signal(SIGINT, handler); /* installs ctl-c handler */
  while(1) {
  }
}
```

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A Program That Reacts to Internally Generated Events

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <signal.h>

int beeps = 0;

/* SIGALRM handler */
void handler(int sig) {
  printf("BEEP\n");
  fflush(stdout);

  if (++beeps < 5)
    alarm(1);
  else {
    printf("BOOM!\n");
    exit(0);
  }
}
```

```
main() {
  signal(SIGALRM, handler);
  alarm(1); /* send SIGALRM in
               1 second */

  while (1) {
    /* handler returns here */
  }
}
```

```
linux> a.out
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BOOM!
bass>
```

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Nonlocal Jumps: `setjmp/longjmp`

Powerful (but dangerous) user-level mechanism for transferring control to an arbitrary location.
- Controlled way to break the procedure call/return discipline
- Useful for error recovery and signal handling

`int setjmp(jmp_buf j)`
- Must be called before longjmp
- Identifies a return site for a subsequent longjmp.
- Called once, returns one or more times

Implementation:
- Remember where you are by storing the current register context, stack pointer, and PC value in jmp_buf.
- Return 0

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`setjmp/longjmp` (cont)

`void longjmp(jmp_buf j, int i)`
- Meaning:
  - return from the `setjmp` remembered by jump buffer `j` again...
  - ...this time returning `i` instead of 0
- Called after `setjmp`
- Called once, but never returns

`longjmp` **Implementation:**
- Restore register context from jump buffer `j`
- Set `%eax` (the return value) to `i`
- Jump to the location indicated by the PC stored in jump buf `j`.

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`setjmp/longjmp` Example

```
#include <setjmp.h>
jmp_buf buf;

main() {
   if (setjmp(buf) != 0) {
      printf("back in main due to an error\n");
   else
      printf("first time through\n");
   p1(); /* p1 calls p2, which calls p3 */
}
...
p3() {
   <error checking code>
   if (error)
      longjmp(buf, 1)
}
```

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Putting It All Together: A Program That Restarts Itself When `ctrl-c`'d

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <signal.h>
#include <setjmp.h>

sigjmp_buf buf;

void handler(int sig) {
  siglongjmp(buf, 1);
}

main() {
  signal(SIGINT, handler);

  if (!sigsetjmp(buf, 1))
    printf("starting\n");
  else
    printf("restarting\n");
```

```
  while(1) {
    sleep(1);
    printf("processing...\n");
  }
}
```

```
bass> a.out
starting
processing...
processing...
restarting        Ctrl-c
processing...
processing...
processing...
restarting        Ctrl-c
processing...
restarting        Ctrl-c
processing...
processing...
```

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Limitations of Nonlocal Jumps

Works within stack discipline

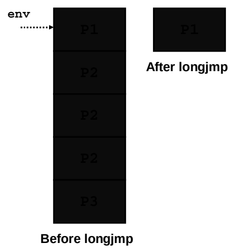
- Can only long jump to environment of function that has been called but not yet completed

```
jmp_buf env;

P1()
{
  if (setjmp(env)) {
    /* Long Jump to here */
  } else {
    P2();
  }
}

P2()
{  . . . P2(); . . . P3(); }

P3()
{
  longjmp(env, 1);
}
```



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Limitations of Long Jumps (cont.)

Works within stack discipline

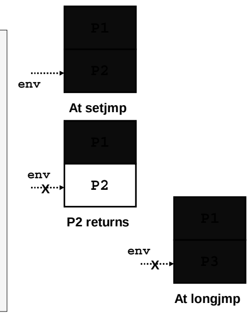
- Can only long jump to environment of function that has been called but not yet completed

```
jmp_buf env;

P1()
{
  P2(); P3();
}

P2()
{
   if (setjmp(env)) {
    /* Long Jump to here */
  }
}

P3()
{
  longjmp(env, 1);
}
```



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Summary

Signals provide process-level exception handling

- Can generate from user programs
- Can define effect by declaring signal handler

Some caveats

- Very high overhead
  - >10,000 clock cycles
  - Only use for exceptional conditions
- Don't have queues
  - Just one bit for each pending signal type

Nonlocal jumps provide exceptional control flow within process

- Within constraints of stack discipline

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