Distributed Information Processing

10th Lecture

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Outline

- Processes
  - Multithreading
  - Virtualization
  - Clients
  - Servers

- Q&A
Thread Usage in Nondistributed Systems

Context switching as the result of IPC

Context switch requires changing the memory map in the MMU (Memory Management Unit) and flushing the TLB (Translation Lookaside Buffer).
Thread Implementation

User-Level Threads

- Being Executed Entirely in User Space
  - It is cheap to create and destroy threads
  - Switching can often be done efficiently
  - Invocation of a blocking system call blocks all

- Having the Kernel Aware of Threads and Schedule Them
  - Switching may become expensive

Lightweight Process (LWP)

- Hybrid Form of User and Kernel-Level Threads
  - Each LWP can run its own (user-level) thread
  - Synchronization does not require kernel support
Combining kernel-level lightweight processes and user-level threads

Thread doing a blocking system call still continues in the context of the current LWP. In switching, the selected LWP will simply continue where it had previously left off.
Multithreaded Servers

A multithreaded server organized in a dispatcher/worker model

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Multithreaded Servers (Cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Threads</td>
<td>Parallelism, blocking system calls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-threaded process</td>
<td>No parallelism, blocking system calls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finite-state machine</td>
<td>Parallelism, nonblocking system calls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The process is being operated as a finite state machine that gets an event and then react to it, depending on what is in it; this approach performs well, but is hard to program

Three ways to construct a server
The Role of Virtualization in Distributed Systems

General organization between a program, interface, and system. (b) General organization of virtualizing system A on top of system B

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Architectures of Virtual Machines

Interfaces at Different Levels

- An interface between the hardware and software consisting of *machine instructions*
  - that can be invoked by any program

- An interface between the hardware and software, consisting of *machine instructions*
  - that can be invoked only by privileged programs, such as an operating system
Architectures of Virtual Machines (Cont’d)

- Interfaces at Different Levels (Cont’d)
  - An interface consisting of system calls as offered by an operating system
  - An interface consisting of library calls
    - generally forming what is known as an application programming interface (API)
    - In many cases, the aforementioned system calls are hidden by an API
Architectures of Virtual Machines (Cont’d)

Various interfaces offered by computer systems

- Library functions
- System calls
- Privileged instructions
- Operating system
- General instructions
- Hardware
- Application

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Architectures of Virtual Machines (Cont’d)

(a) A process virtual machine, with multiple instances of (application, runtime) combinations

Instructions can be interpreted (as is the case for the Java executing applications), but could also be emulated mimicking the behavior of system calls.
Architectures of Virtual Machines (Cont’d)

(b) A virtual machine monitor, with multiple instances of (applications, operating system) combinations

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Networked User Interfaces

(a) A networked application with its own protocol
Networked User Interfaces (Cont’d)

(b) A general solution to allow access to remote applications

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Example: The X Window System

The basic organization of the X Window System
Client-Side Software for Distribution Transparency

Transparent replication of a server using a client-side solution

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General Design Issues

(a) Client-to-server binding using a daemon
General Design Issues (Cont’d)

(b) Client-to-server binding using a superserver
The general organization of a three-tiered server cluster
Server Clusters (Cont’d)

Logically a single TCP connection

Request

Switch

Response

Request (handed off)

Server

The principle of TCP handoff
Route optimization in a distributed server

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