Operating Systems

- **Review Syllabus**
  - read the warning about the size of the project
  - make sure you get the 6th edition (or later) of the book
- **Class Grades Server**
  - Grades.cs.umd.edu
- **Program #0 Handout**
  - it’s due in just over one week
  - purpose is to get familiar with the simulator
- **Discussion Sections**
  - will focus on the project and meet only once a week (W)
- **Reading**
  - Chapter 1
  - Chapter 2 (for Tuesday)
What is an Operating System?

- **Resource Manager**
  - Resources include: CPU, memory, disk, network
  - OS allocates and de-allocates these resources

- **Virtual Machine**
  - Provides an abstraction of a larger (or just different machine)
  - Examples:
    - Virtual memory - looks like more memory
    - IBM VM - a complete virtual machine (can boot multiple copies of an OS on it)
    - VMware

- **Multiplexor**
  - Allows sharing of resources and protection
  - Motivation is cost: consider a $40M supercomputer
What is an OS (cont)?

- **Provider of Services**
  - includes most of the things in the above definition
  - provide “common” subroutines for the programmer
    - windowing systems
    - memory management

- **The software that is always loaded/running**
  - generally refers to the Os *kernel*.
    - small protected piece of software

- **All of these definitions are correct**
  - **but** not all operating have all of these features
Closely Related to an Operating System

- **Hardware**
  - OS is managing hardware resources so needs to know about the ugly details of the hardware
    - interrupt vectors
    - page tables
    - I/O registers
  - some features can be implemented either in hardware or the OS
    - Example: page tables on MIPS

- **Languages**
  - can you write an OS in any language?
    - No: need to be able to explicitly layout data structures to match hardware
OS Related Topics (cont)

- **Language Runtime systems**
  - memory management requirements
    - explicit heap management
    - garbage collection
    - stack layout
  - concurrency and synchronization
  - calling convention (how are parameters passed)

- **Data Structure and Algorithms**
  - efficient access to information in an OS
    - for most things need linear time and space
    - for many things want log or constant time
Usability Goals

- **Robustness**
  - accept all valid input
  - detect and gracefully handle all invalid input
  - should not be possible to crash the OS

- **Consistency**
  - same operation should mean the same thing
    - read from a file or a network should look the same
    - a “-” flag should be the same in different commands
  - conventions
    - define the convention
    - **follow the convention when adding new items**
Usability Goals (cont)

- **Proportionality**
  - simple, common cases are easy and fast
    - good default values
  - complex, rare cases are possible but more complex and slower
    - “rm *” should give a warning
    - formatting the disk should not be on the desktop next to the trash can
Cost Goals

- **Good Algorithms**
  - time/space tradeoff are important
  - use special hardware where needed
    - smart disk controllers, memory protection

- **Low maintenance cost**
  - should not require constant attention

- **Maintainability**
  - most of cost in OS is in maintenance so make it easy to maintain the software base
Adaptability Goals

- **Tailored to the environment**
  - server vs. workstation
  - multi-media vs. data entry

- **Changes over time**
  - added memory
  - new devices

- **Extensible**
  - third parties can add new features
    - database vendors often need custom features
  - end customers can extend the system
    - new devices
    - new policies
Why Study Operating Systems?

- They are large and complex programs
  - good software engineering examples
- There is no perfect OS
  - too many types of users
    • real-time, desktop, server, etc...
  - many different models and abstractions are possible
    • OS researchers have been termed abstraction merchants
- Many levels of abstraction
  - hardware details: where the bits really go and when
  - high level concepts: deadlock, synchronization
Why Study Operating Systems (cont.)

- **Necessity**
  - reliability: when the OS is down, computer is down
  - recovery: when the OS goes down it should not take all of your files with it.

- **It’s fun**
  - the details are interesting (at least I think so :)
  - thinking about concurrency makes you better at writing software for other areas