

Definitions:

Process

More precisely, an internal process is the execution of one or more interruptable programs in a given storage area. An internal process is identified by a unique process name. Thus other processes need not be aware of the actual location of an internal process in the store.

external process

the i/o of a given document identified by a unique process name.

Peripheral device

multiprogramming system as a set of independent, parallel processes identified by names

Communication

Send message (receiver, message, &buffer)

wait message (&sender, &message, &buffer) //blocking

send answer (result, answer, buffer)

wait answer (&result, &answer, buffer) //blocking

advantage: secure, control by os

Usage: inter-process communication, synchronization, system calls

real-time synchronization using a clock external process

disk I/O using a file external process

Disk:

internal process creates an external process offering information of a file

send message about reading/writing, and wait answer

no file system introduced in this paper, but any file system can be implemented inside an external process

CPU resource management:

processes can be dynamically created; very different from THE!

creation: assign name, assign storage area

start

stop

remove

How to implement different scheduling algorithms?

Memory resource management:

how to enforce memory protection among processes?

(no virtual memory management described in the paper, but is open to VM mgmt extension)

child process' storage has to be part of the parent

tagged memory

if we want to implement virtual memory, the parent process can do that

Process hierarchy

Each parent process can implement its own resource management policies, and serves as an "OS" to all its children processes

very similar to "library OS", "Unikernel", "Exokernel" ideas later

Comparing with THE:

More reliable

More extensible

More scalable
Worse performance

Questions:

1. How to implement scheduling other than round robin?
2. Page 4: is the queue served first in first out or in any order?
3. is the concept of parent process spawning children process different from fork?
4. is external process idea still around? is it just file descriptor?
5. are nucleus messages really better than THE's semaphores?