



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Coimbatore-35.

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COURSE NAME : 23CST202 – OPERATING SYSTEMS

II YEAR/ IV SEMESTER

UNIT – I OVERVIEW AND PROCESS MANAGEMENT

Topic: Operations on process

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Interprocess Communication – Shared Memory



- An **area of memory shared** among the processes that wish to communicate
- The communication is **under the control of the users processes** not the operating system.
- Major issues is to provide mechanism that will allow the user processes to synchronize their actions when they access shared memory.
- Synchronization is discussed in great details in Chapter 5.



Interprocess Communication – Message Passing



- Mechanism for processes to communicate and to synchronize their actions
- Message system – processes communicate with each other without resorting to shared variables
- IPC facility provides two operations:
 - `send(message)`
 - `receive(message)`
- The *message* size is either fixed or variable



Message Passing (Cont.)



- If processes P and Q wish to communicate, they need to:
 - Establish a **communication link** between them
 - Exchange messages via send/receive
- Implementation issues:
 - How are links established?
 - Can a link be associated with more than two processes?
 - How many links can there be between every pair of communicating processes?
 - What is the capacity of a link?
 - Is the size of a message that the link can accommodate fixed or variable?
 - Is a link unidirectional or bi-directional?



Message Passing (Cont.)



- Implementation of communication link
 - Physical:
 - ▶ Shared memory
 - ▶ Hardware bus
 - ▶ Network
 - Logical:
 - ▶ Direct or indirect
 - ▶ Synchronous or asynchronous
 - ▶ Automatic or explicit buffering



Direct Communication



- Processes must name each other explicitly:
 - **send** (P , *message*) – send a message to process P
 - **receive**(Q , *message*) – receive a message from process Q
- Properties of communication link
 - Links are established automatically
 - A link is associated with exactly one pair of communicating processes
 - Between each pair there exists exactly one link
 - The link may be unidirectional, but is usually bi-directional



Indirect Communication



- Messages are directed and received from mailboxes (also referred to as ports)
 - Each mailbox has a unique id
 - Processes can communicate only if they share a mailbox
- Properties of communication link
 - Link established only if processes share a common mailbox
 - A link may be associated with many processes
 - Each pair of processes may share several communication links
 - Link may be unidirectional or bi-directional



Indirect Communication



- Mailbox sharing
 - P_1 , P_2 , and P_3 share mailbox A
 - P_1 , sends; P_2 and P_3 receive
 - Who gets the message?
- Solutions
 - Allow a link to be associated with at most two processes
 - Allow only one process at a time to execute a receive operation
 - Allow the system to select arbitrarily the receiver. Sender is notified who the receiver was.



Synchronization



- Message passing may be either blocking or non-blocking
- **Blocking** is considered **synchronous**
 - **Blocking send** -- the sender is blocked until the message is received
 - **Blocking receive** -- the receiver is blocked until a message is available
- **Non-blocking** is considered **asynchronous**
 - **Non-blocking send** -- the sender sends the message and continue
 - **Non-blocking receive** -- the receiver receives:
 - A valid message, or
 - Null message
- Different combinations possible
 - If both send and receive are blocking, we have a **rendezvous**



REFERENCES



TEXT BOOKS:

- T1 Silberschatz, Galvin, and Gagne, “Operating System Concepts”, Ninth Edition, Wiley India Pvt Ltd, 2009.)
- T2. Andrew S. Tanenbaum, “Modern Operating Systems”, Fourth Edition, Pearson Education, 2010

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- R4. William Stallings, “Operating Systems – Internals and Design Principles”, 7th Edition, Prentice Hall, 2011