

CS 134:  
Operating Systems  
I/O Hardware

2013-05-17 CS34

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Operating Systems  
I/O Hardware

## Patch Peer Review

### Drivers

- Low-Level
- Mid-Level
- Upper-Level

## Unusual Devices

# Comments on a Few Comments

**Multiple execvs run out of memory**

**sp1high prevents interrupts in file operations**

**Negative process exit codes don't work**

**#define foo(x) do {...} while (0)  
is weird, obscure, and nonstandard**

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*Exit codes are 8 bits, unsigned*

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2013-05-17

CS34

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# Numeric Evaluations

Group	Clarity	Concise	Fit	Correct	Docs	Total
hertz	4.78	4.67	4.67	4.00	4.78	22.90
fewer	4.67	4.33	4.67	2.67	4.33	20.67
dwarf	4.33	4.33	5.00	2.67	4.00	20.33
yank	5.00	4.33	4.33	2.33	4.00	19.99
radon	3.67	4.33	3.67	4.00	2.67	18.34
race	4.00	4.33	4.67	2.00	3.33	18.33
wilt	4.33	4.33	4.00	1.33	3.33	17.32
bides	3.67	3.00	3.00	2.67	4.00	16.34
cue	3.67	4.00	2.67	1.67	4.00	16.01
diner	4.33	4.67	4.00	1.33	1.33	15.66

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CS34

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# Ranking

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2013-05-17 CS34  
 Patch Peer Review  
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# Device Drivers

Device-access code can run in kernel or user mode (but usually kernel).

Driver must abstract control registers to OS's read/write model:

- ▶ Validate request
- ▶ Wait for idle
- ▶ Issue commands through control registers
- ▶ Possibly block waiting for interrupt
- ▶ Possibly invoke scheduler

2013-05-17

CS34  
├── Drivers  
│ ├── Low-Level  
│ └── Device Drivers

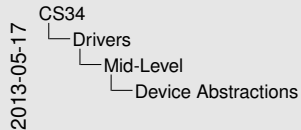
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# Device Abstractions



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Many devices have common characteristics; e.g., different brands of disk or printer

Makes sense to abstract common parts

Resulting structure is uniform driver sitting above specific one

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# Buffering

2013-05-17  
CS34  
├── Drivers  
│ ├── Mid-Level  
│ └── Buffering

## Buffering

Desirable to collect input before delivering it, accept output before device swallows it

Kernel buffers allow both features

Wise to have extra buffers to allow overlapped I/O

Many devices need buffers, so common kernel mechanism makes sense

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# Error Handling

2013-05-17  
CS34  
└ Drivers  
└└ Mid-Level  
└└└ Error Handling

Best option on errors: retry and hide from upper levels  
Alternative: return error code to application & let it handle  
Worst option: ask user what to do (user usually has insufficient information to make wise decision)

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# Abstractions

Some devices need more than just read and write:

- ▶ Disks need filesystems
- ▶ Network cards need routing and connection management
- ▶ Graphics displays need windowing
- ▶ Keyboard needs editing
- ▶ Mouse needs pointing to particular windows
- ▶ ...

OS must provide sensible interposition/interface

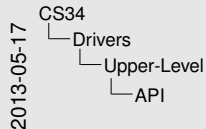
2013-05-17  
CS34  
├ Drivers  
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- User-space applications need standardized interface
- Open, close, read, write, lseek
  - What to do about unusual cases like “eject CD”?
- Sometimes need even higher-level abstractions
- Mount/unmount
  - Printer spooling

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2013-05-17  
CS34  
├── Drivers  
│ ├── Upper-Level  
│ └── API

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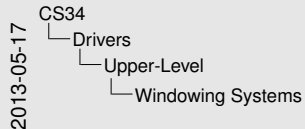
# Windowing Systems

Modern GUIs need window management:

- ▶ Overlapping windows
- ▶ High-performance drawing
- ▶ “Events” (keystrokes and mouse clicks) delivered to selected windows
- ▶ *Window manager* to decide which window is on top and which is active

In Unix, all of this is implemented as a network-connected server that runs the display, mouse, and keyboard: the **X Window System**

- ▶ Applications are *clients* that connect to the server and ask for windows to be drawn, keystrokes delivered, etc.



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# Clocks

2013-05-17

CS34

└ Unusual Devices

└ Clocks

## Clocks

Clocks come in two flavors:

1. Read/write interface (read gives time of day, write sets it)
2. Pure interrupt interface (interrupt every so often)

Typically, first kind is used only at boot time, then periodic interrupts maintain TOD and force process switches

All clocks *drift*; NTP (Network Time Protocol) allows synchronization to GPS or standardized atomic clocks

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2013-05-17  
CS34  
└─ Unusual Devices  
    └─ Keyboards

## Keyboards

Unlike all other devices, humans can't reliably generate input

Keyboard must allow *line editing* to compensate

Typically supported in driver

- Problem: some programs have own line-editing needs
- Solution: *raw* (as opposed to *cooked*) mode
- Cooked mode also echoes input

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2013-05-17  
CS34  
└─ Unusual Devices  
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2013-05-17  
CS34  
└─ Unusual Devices  
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