CS110 Lecture 6: Multiprocessing

CS110: Principles of Computer Systems

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Stanford University

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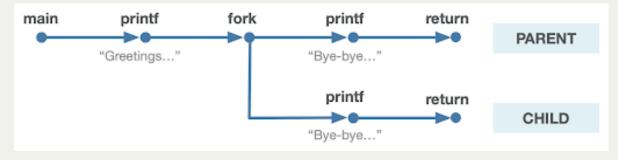
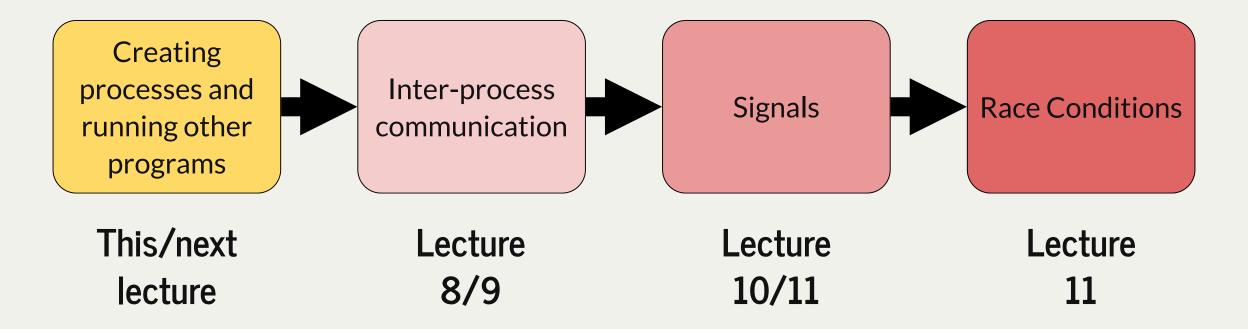


Illustration courtesy of Roz Cyrus.



CS110 Topic 2: How can our program create and interact with other programs?

Learning About Processes



assign3: implement multiprocessing programs like "trace" (to trace another program's behavior) and "farm" (parallelize tasks)

assign4: implement your own shell!

Learning Goals

- Learn how to use the **fork()** function to create a new process
- Understand how a process is cloned and run by the OS
- Understand how to use waitpid() to coordinate between processes

Lecture Plan

- Multiprocessing overview
- Introducing fork()
- **Practice:** Fork Tree
- waitpid() and waiting for child processes

Today's Ed Thread: https://edstem.org/us/courses/16701/discussion/1002824

Lecture Plan

- <u>Multiprocessing overview</u>
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Multiprocessing Terminology

Program: code you write to execute tasks

Process: an instance of your program running; consists of program and execution state.

Key idea: multiple processes can run the same program

```
Process 5621

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Hello, world!\n");
    printf("Goodbye!\n");
    return 0;
5 }
```

Multiprocessing

Your computer runs many processes simultaneously - even with just 1 processor core (how?)

- "simultaneously" = switch between them so fast humans don't notice
- Your program thinks it's the only thing running
- OS schedules processes who gets to run when
- Each process gets a little time, then has to wait
- Many times, waiting is good! E.g. waiting for key press, waiting for disk
- Caveat: multicore computers can truly multitask

Playing With Processes

When you run a program from the terminal, it runs in a new process.

- The OS gives each process a unique "process ID" number (PID)
- PIDs are useful once we start managing multiple processes
- **getpid()** returns the PID of the current process

```
1 // getpid.c
2 #include <stdio.h>
3 #include <unistd.h>
4
5 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    pid_t myPid = getpid();
    printf("My process ID is %d\n", myPid);
    return 0;
9 }

$ ./getpid
My process ID is 18814

My process ID is 18831

Process ID is
```

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```
Process A

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    printf("Hello, world!\n");
3    fork();
4    printf("Goodbye!\n");
5    return 0;
6 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram
```

```
Process A

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    printf("Hello, world!\n");
3    fork();
4    printf("Goodbye!\n");
5    return 0;
6 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram
Hello, world!
```

```
Process A

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Hello, world!\n");
    fork();
    printf("Goodbye!\n");
    return 0;
6 }
```

```
Process B

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Hello, world!\n");
    fork();
    printf("Goodbye!\n");
    return 0;
6 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram
Hello, world!
```

```
Process A

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Hello, world!\n");
    fork();
    printf("Goodbye!\n");
    return 0;
6 }
```

```
Process B

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2     printf("Hello, world!\n");
3     fork();
4     printf("Goodbye!\n");
5     return 0;
6 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram
Hello, world!
Goodbye!
Goodbye!
```

```
Process A

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    int x = 2;
3    printf("Hello, world!\n");
4    fork();
5    printf("Goodbye, %d!\n", x);
6    return 0;
7 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram2
```

```
Process A

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    int x = 2;
3    printf("Hello, world!\n");
4    fork();
5    printf("Goodbye, %d!\n", x);
6    return 0;
7 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram2
Hello, world!
```

```
Process A

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    int x = 2;
3    printf("Hello, world!\n");
4    fork();
5    printf("Goodbye, %d!\n", x);
6    return 0;
7 }
```

```
Process B

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    int x = 2;
3    printf("Hello, world!\n");
4    fork();
5    printf("Goodbye, %d!\n", x);
6    return 0;
7 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram2
Hello, world!
```

```
Process A

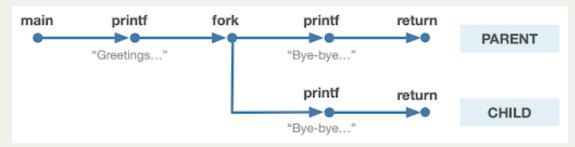
1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    int x = 2;
3    printf("Hello, world!\n");
4    fork();
5    printf("Goodbye, %d!\n", x);
6    return 0;
7 }
```

```
Process B

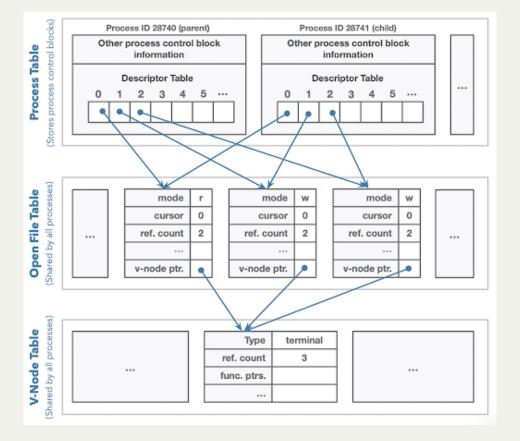
1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    int x = 2;
3    printf("Hello, world!\n");
4    fork();
5    printf("Goodbye, %d!\n", x);
6    return 0;
7 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram2
Hello, world!
Goodbye, 2!
Goodbye, 2!
```

- parent (original) process forks off a child (new) process
- The child **starts** execution on the next program instruction. The parent **continues** execution with the next program instruction. *The order from now on is up to the OS!*
- fork() is called once, but returns twice (why?)
- Everything is duplicated in the child process (except PIDs are different)
 - File descriptor table (increasing reference counts on open file table entries)
 - Mapped memory regions (the address space)
 - Regions like stack, heap, etc. are copied



The parent process' file descriptor table is **cloned** on **fork** and the reference counts within the relevant open file table entries are incremented. This explains how the child can still output to the same terminal!



(Am I the parent or the child?)

```
Process A

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    int x = 2;
3    printf("Hello, world!\n");
4    fork();
5    printf("Goodbye, %d!\n", x);
6    return 0;
7 }
```

```
Process B

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    int x = 2;
3    printf("Hello, world!\n");
4    fork();
5    printf("Goodbye, %d!\n", x);
6    return 0;
7 }
```

Is there a way for the processes to tell which is the parent and which is the child? <u>Key Idea:</u> the return value of fork() is different in the parent and the child.

fork() creates a second process that is a **clone** of the first:

```
pid_t fork();
```

- parent (original) process forks off a child (new) process
- In the parent, fork() will return the PID of the child (only way for parent to get child's PID)
- In the child, fork() will return 0 (this is not the child's PID, it's just 0)

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- In the child, fork() will return 0 (this is not the child's PID, it's just 0)

```
Process 110

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    printf("Hello, world!\n");
3    pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
4    printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero);
5    return 0;
6 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram
```

- In the parent, fork() will return the PID of the child (only way for parent to get child's PID)
- In the child, fork() will return 0 (this is not the child's PID, it's just 0)

```
Process 110

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
2    printf("Hello, world!\n");
3    pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
4    printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero);
5    return 0;
6 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram2
Hello, world!
```

- In the parent, fork() will return the PID of the child (only way for parent to get child's PID)
- In the child, fork() will return 0 (this is not the child's PID, it's just 0)

Process 110 1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) { printf("Hello, world!\n"); pid_t pidOrZero = fork(); // 111 printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero); return 0; 6 }

```
Process 111

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Hello, world!\n");
    pid_t pidOrZero = fork(); // 0
    printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero);
    return 0;
6 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram2
Hello, world!
```

- In the parent, fork() will return the PID of the child (only way for parent to get child's PID)
- In the child, fork() will return 0 (this is not the child's PID, it's just 0)

Process 110 1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) { printf("Hello, world!\n"); pid_t pidOrZero = fork(); // 111 printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero); return 0; 6 }

```
Process 111

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Hello, world!\n");
    pid_t pidOrZero = fork(); // 0
    printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero);
    return 0;
6 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram
Hello, world!
fork returned 111
fork returned 0
```

- In the parent, fork() will return the PID of the child (only way for parent to get child's PID)
- In the child, fork() will return 0 (this is not the child's PID, it's just 0)

Process 110 1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) { printf("Hello, world!\n"); pid_t pidOrZero = fork(); // 111 printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero); return 0; 6 }

```
Process 111

1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Hello, world!\n");
    pid_t pidOrZero = fork(); // 0
    printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero);
    return 0;
6 }
```

```
$ ./myprogram
Hello, world!
fork returned 111
fork returned 0
```

OR

```
$ ./myprogram
Hello, world!
fork returned 0
fork returned 111
```

- In the parent, fork() will return the PID of the child (only way for parent to get child's PID)
- In the child, fork() will return 0 (this is not the child's PID, it's just 0)

Process 110 Process 111 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) { main(int argc, char *argv[]) { printf("Hello, world!\n"); printf("Hello, world!\n"); pid t pidOrZero = fork(); // 111 pid t pidOrZero = fork(); // 0 printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero); printf("fork returned %d\n", pidOrZero); return 0; return 0; We can no longer assume the order in which our program will execute! The OS decides the order. ./myprogram Hello, world! Hello, world! OR fork returned 111 fork returned 0 fork returned 0 fork returned 111

- In the parent, fork() will return the PID of the child (only way for parent to get child's PID)
- In the child, fork() will return 0 (this is not the child's PID, it's just 0)
- A process can use getppid() to get the PID of its parent
- if fork() returns < 0, that means an error occurred

```
// basic-fork.c
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Greetings from process %d! (parent %d)\n", getpid(), getppid());
    pid t pidOrZero = fork();
    assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
    printf("Bye-bye from process %d! (parent %d)\n", getpid(), getppid());
    return 0;
```



- ./basic-fork Greetings from process 29686! (parent 29351) Bye-bye from process 29686! (parent 29351) Bye-bye from process 29687! (parent 29686) \$./basic-fork Greetings from process 29688! (parent 29351) Bye-bye from process 29689! (parent 29688 Bye-bye from process 29688! (parent 29351)
- The parent of the original process is the *shell* the program that you run in the terminal.
- The ordering of the parent and child output is nondeterministic. Sometimes the parent prints first, and sometimes the child prints first!

What happens to variables and addresses?

```
1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
       char str[128];
       strcpy(str, "Hello");
       printf("str's address is %p\n", str);
       pid t pid = fork();
       if (pid == 0) {
           // The child should modify str
           printf("I am the child. str's address is %p\n", str);
11
           strcpy(str, "Howdy");
12
           printf("I am the child and I changed str to %s. str's address is still %p\n", str, str);
13
       } else {
14
           // The parent should sleep and print out str
15
           printf("I am the parent. str's address is %p\n", str);
16
           printf("I am the parent, and I'm going to sleep for 2 seconds.\n");
17
           sleep(2);
18
           printf("I am the parent. I just woke up. str's address is %p, and its value is %s\n", str, str);
19
20
21
       return 0;
22 }
```



```
1 $ ./fork-copy
2 str's address is 0x7ffc8cfa9990
3 I am the parent. str's address is 0x7ffc8cfa9990
4 I am the parent, and I'm going to sleep for 2 seconds.
5 I am the child. str's address is 0x7ffc8cfa9990
6 I am the child and I changed str to Howdy. str's address is still 0x7ffc8cfa9990
7 I am the parent. I just woke up. str's address is 0x7ffc8cfa9990, and its value is Hello
```

How can the parent and child use the same address to store different data?

- Each program thinks it is given all memory addresses to use
- The operating system maps these *virtual* addresses to *physical* addresses
- When a process forks, its virtual address space stays the same
- The operating system will map the child's virtual addresses to different physical addresses than for the parent

```
1 $ ./fork-copy
2 str's address is 0x7ffc8cfa9990
3 I am the parent. str's address is 0x7ffc8cfa9990
4 I am the parent, and I'm going to sleep for 2 seconds.
5 I am the child. str's address is 0x7ffc8cfa9990
6 I am the child and I changed str to Howdy. str's address is still 0x7ffc8cfa9990
7 I am the parent. I just woke up. str's address is 0x7ffc8cfa9990, and its value is Hello
```

Isn't it expensive to make copies of all memory when forking?

- The operating system only *lazily* makes copies.
- It will have them share physical addresses until one of them changes its memory contents to be different than the other.
- This is called *copy on write* (only make copies when they are written to).

Example: Loaded Dice

```
1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
       // Initialize the random number with a "seed value"
       // this seed state is used to generate future random numbers
       srandom(time(NULL));
       printf("This program will make you question what 'randomness' means...\n");
       pid t pidOrZero = fork();
       // Parent goes first - both processes *always* get the same roll (why?)
10
       if (pidOrZero != 0) {
11
           int diceRoll = (random() % 6) + 1;
12
           printf("I am the parent and I rolled a %d\n", diceRoll);
13
           sleep(1);
14
       } else {
15
           sleep(1);
16
           int diceRoll = (random() % 6) + 1;
           printf("I am the child and I'm quessing the parent rolled a d^n, diceRoll);
17
18
19
20
       return 0;
21 }
```

Key Idea: all state is copied from the parent to the child, even the random number generator seed! Both the parent and child will get the same return value from



Debugging Multiprocess Programs

How do I debug two processes at once? gdb has built-in support for debugging multiple processes

- set detach-on-fork off
 - This tells **gdb** to capture any **fork**'d processes, though it pauses them upon the **fork**.
- info inferiors
 - This lists the processes that gdb has captured.
- inferior X
 - Switch to a different process to debug it.
- detach inferior X
 - Tell gdb to stop watching the process, and continue it
- You can see an entire debugging session on the **basic-fork** program right here.

Lecture Plan

- Multiprocessing overview
- Introducing fork()
- Practice: Fork Tree
- waitpid() and waiting for child processes

Today's Ed Thread: https://edstem.org/us/courses/16701/discussion/1002824

Fork Tree

Here's a useful (but mind-melting) example of a program where child processes themselves call **fork()**:

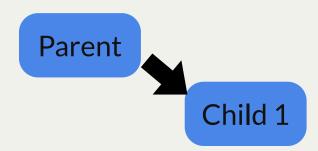
```
1 static const char *kTrail = "abc";
2
3 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
4    for (int i = 0; i < strlen(kTrail); i++) {
5        printf("%c\n", kTrail[i]);
6        pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
7        assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
8    }
9    return 0;
10 }
```

Parent



Here's a useful (but mind-melting) example of a program where child processes themselves call **fork()**:

```
static const char *kTrail = "abc";
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    for (int i = 0; i < strlen(kTrail); i++)</pre>
         printf("%c\n", kTrail[i]);
         pid t pidOrZero = fork();
         assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
    return 0;
                                            pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
```



Here's a useful (but mind-melting) example of a program where child processes themselves call **fork()**:

```
Parent
                                                                                                    Child 1
static const char *kTrail = "abc";
                                                                                Child 2
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
     for (int i = 0; i < strlen(kTrail); i++)</pre>
                                                                                                   GChild
          printf("%c\n", kTrail[i]);
          pid t pidOrZero = fork();
          assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
     return 0;
                      pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
                                                   pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
                                                   assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
                                                                      t pidOrZero = fork();
```

Here's a useful (but mind-melting) example of a program where child processes themselves call **fork()**:

```
Parent
                                                                                           Child 1
    static const char *kTrail = "abc";
                                                             Child 3
                                                                          Child 2
    int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
         for (int i = 0; i < strlen(kTrail); i++)</pre>
                                                                                          GChild 1
             printf("%c\n", kTrail[i]);
                                                                         GChild 2
             pid t pidOrZero = fork();
             assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
                                                                             GChild 3
                                                                                          GGChild 1
assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
```

```
1 // fork-puzzle.c
2 static const char *kTrail = "abc";
3
4 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
5    for (int i = 0; i < strlen(kTrail); i++) {
6       printf("%c\n", kTrail[i]);
7       pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
8       assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
9    }
10    return 0;
11 }
```

```
$ ./fork-puzzle
a
b
c
b
c
c
c
c
```

```
$ ./fork-puzzle
a
b
c
c
c
c
```

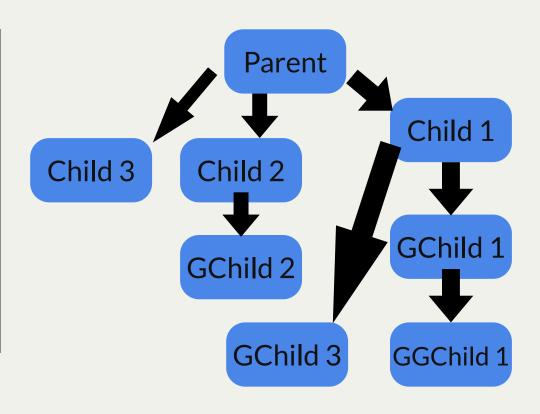
```
$ ./fork-puzzle
a
b
c
b
c
c
c
c
c
c
```

What happened here?

Observations:

- One **a** is printed by the original process.
- The original process and its child each print b.
- The two **b**s may not be consecutive why?

```
1 // fork-puzzle.c
2 static const char *kTrail = "abc";
3
4 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
5     for (int i = 0; i < strlen(kTrail); i++) {
6         printf("%c\n", kTrail[i]);
7         pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
8         assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
9     }
10     return 0;
11 }
```



Questions:

- 1 a is printed.
- 2 bs are printed.
- How many cs get printed? -> 4: parent, child 1, child 2, Gchild 1
- Who prints nothing? -> Child 3, GGchild 1, Gchild 3, Gchild 2

Why Fork?

- Fork is used pervasively in applications. A few examples:
 - Running a program in a shell: the shell forks a new process to run the program
 - Servers: most network servers run many copies of the server in different processes (why?)
- Fork is used pervasively in systems. A few examples:
 - When your kernel boots, it starts the system.d program, which forks off all of the services and systems for your computer
 - Let's take a look with pstree
 - Your window manager spawns processes when you start programs
 - Network servers spawn processes when they receive connections
 - E.g., when you ssh into myth, sshd spawns a process to run your shell in (after setting up file descriptors for your terminals over ssh)
- Processes are the first step in understanding *concurrency*, another key principle in computer systems; we'll look at other forms of concurrency later in the quarter

Review So Far

- A process is an instance of a program running
- Each process has a unique PID
- fork() creates a clone of the current process, and they run concurrently
- The parent and child are identical except for fork's return value (child PID for parent, 0 for child)
- This *concurrency* lets your program multitask: much of the quarter will look at the complications
 - Nondeterministic ordering of execution across processes
 - A parent can wait for its children to terminate

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It would be nice if there was a function we could call that would "stall" our program until the child is finished.

waitpid()

A function that a parent can call to wait for its child to exit:

```
pid_t waitpid(pid_t pid, int *status, int options);
```

- pid: the PID of the child to wait on (we'll see other options later)
- **status:** where to put info about the child's termination (or NULL)
- options: optional flags to customize behavior (always 0 for now)
- the function returns when the specified **child process** exits
- the return value is the PID of the child that exited, or -1 on error (e.g. no child to wait on)
- If the child process has already exited, this returns immediately otherwise, it blocks

waitpid()

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    printf("Before.\n");
    pid_t pidOrZero = fork();

if (pidOrZero == 0) {
        sleep(2);
        printf("I (the child) slept and the parent still waited up for me.\n");
} else {
    pid_t result = waitpid(pidOrZero, NULL, 0);
    printf("I (the parent) finished waiting for the child. This always prints last.\n");
}

return 0;

return 0;

}
```

```
$ ./waitpid
Before.
I (the child) slept and the parent still waited up for me.
I (the parent) finished waiting for the child. This always prints last.
$
```



waitpid()

Pass in the address of an integer as the second parameter to get the child's status.

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
       pid t pid = fork();
       if (pid == 0) {
           printf("I'm the child, and the parent will wait up for me.\n");
           return 110; // contrived exit status (not a bad number, though)
       } else {
           int status;
           int result = waitpid(pid, &status, 0);
           if (WIFEXITED(status)) {
               printf("Child exited with status %d.\n", WEXITSTATUS(status));
12
           } else {
13
               printf("Child terminated abnormally.\n");
14
15
           return 0;
16
17 }
  ./separate
I am the child, and the parent will wait up for me.
Child exited with status 110.
```

- We can use WIFEXITED and WEXITSTATUS (among others) to extract info from the status. (full program, with error checking, is right here)
- The output will be the same every time! The parent will always wait for the child to finish before continuing.

Lecture Recap

- Multiprocessing overview
- Introducing fork()
- **Practice:** Fork Tree
- waitpid() and waiting for child processes

Next time: more waitpid(), execvp() and writing our first shell program

Extra Practice Problems

Practice: fork()

```
1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
       printf("Starting the program\n");
       pid t pidOrZero1 = fork();
       pid t pidOrZero2 = fork();
       if (pidOrZero1 != 0 && pidOrZero2 != 0) {
           printf("Hello\n");
10
       if (pidOrZero2 != 0) {
11
           printf("Hi there\n");
12
13
14
       return 0;
15 }
```

How many processes run in total?

- a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4

How many times is "Hello" printed?

- a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4

How many times is "Hi there" printed?

- a) 1 b) 2 c) 3 d) 4

Practice: fork()

```
1 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
       printf("Starting the program\n");
       pid t pidOrZero1 = fork();
       pid t pidOrZero2 = fork();
       if (pidOrZero1 != 0 && pidOrZero2 != 0) 
           printf("Hello\n");
       if (pidOrZero2 != 0) {
10
           printf("Hi there\n");
12
13
14
       return 0;
15 }
```

Parent pidOrZero1 = nonzero pidOrZero2 = nonzero First Child pidOrZero1 = 0 pidOrZero1 = nonzero pidOrZero2 = nonzero pidOrZero2 = nonzero

Grandchild

pidOrZero1 = 0

pidOrZero2 = 0

Fork Tree Round 2

```
1 // fork-puzzle-full.c
2 static const char *kTrail = "abcd";
3
4 int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
5    for (int i = 0; i < strlen(kTrail); i++) {
6       printf("%c\n", kTrail[i]);
7       pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
8       assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
9    }
10    return 0;
11 }
```

Questions:

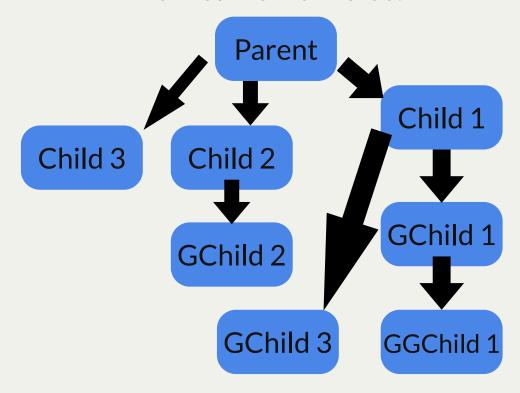
- How many total processes are there when running this program?
- How many times is d printed?
- Could a **d** be printed before an: "a"? "b"? "c"?
- How many processes don't print anything?



Fork Tree Round 2

```
1 // fork-puzzle-full.c
  static const char *kTrail = "abcd";
3
  int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
      for (int i = 0; i < strlen(kTrail); i++) {</pre>
          printf("%c\n", kTrail[i]);
6
          pid_t pidOrZero = fork();
8
          assert(pidOrZero >= 0);
      return 0;
```

From earlier fork tree:



Questions:

- How many total processes are there when running this program?
- How many times is d printed?
- Could a **d** be printed before an: "a"? "b"? "c"?
- How many processes don't print anything?

- 16 total processes
- **d** is printed 8 times
- before a "b" or "c"
- 8 processes print nothing 54