Computer Science 1000: Part #6

System Software

**System Software: An Overview**

Assemblers and Assembly Language

Operating Systems

Implementing System Software
System Software: An Overview

• “Naked” computer hard to deal with, e.g.,
  1. Write machine language program.
  2. Load program into memory starting at address 0.
  3. Load 0 into PC and start execution.

• Need virtual machine interface, which does the following:
  • Hides details of machine operation.
  • Does not require in-depth knowledge of machine internals.
  • Provides easy access to system resources.
  • Prevents accidental or intentional damage to hardware, programs, and data.

• Create virtual machine and associated interface with system software.
System Software: An Overview (Cont’d)

**Figure 6.1** The Role of System Software
System Software: An Overview (Cont’d)

- System software provided by **Operating System (OS)**.
- Many types of system software in an OS, e.g.,
  - **Graphical User Interface (GUI)**: Access system services.
  - **Language services**: Allow programming in high-level languages, e.g., text editor, assembler, loader, compiler, debugger.
  - **Memory manager**: Allocate memory for programs and data and retrieve memory after use.
  - **Information manager**: Organize program and data files for easy access, e.g., folders, directories.
  - **I/O system manager**: Access I/O devices.
  - **Scheduler**: Manage multiple active programs.
OS dramatically simplifies creation of software, e.g.,

1. Write **source program** \( P \) in high-level programming language using a text editor.

2. Use an information manager to store \( P \) as a file in a directory.

3. Use a compiler and an assembler to translate \( P \) into an equivalent machine language program \( M \).

4. Use scheduler to load, schedule, and run \( M \) (with scheduler calling memory manager and loader).

5. Use I/O system manager to display output on screen.

6. If necessary, use debugger to isolate and text editor to correct program errors.
Assemblers and Assembly Language

• An assembly language is the human-friendly version of a machine language, courtesy of several features:
  
  • Symbolic op-codes, e.g., ADD, COMPARE;
  • Symbolic memory addresses and labels, e.g., IND, ONE, AFTERLOOP; and
  • **Pseudo-ops** which specify extra assembler directives, e.g., .DATA, .BEGIN, .END.

• An assembler converts an assembly language source program into a machine language **object program**; a loader then places the instructions in that object program in the specified memory addresses.
Assemblers and Assembly Language (Cont’d)

Figure 6.3
The Continuum of Programming Languages
## Assemblers and Assembly Language: An Example Assembly Language

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OC</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>LOAD Lbl</td>
<td>$CON(Lbl) \rightarrow R$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>STORE Lbl</td>
<td>$R \rightarrow CON(Lbl)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>CLEAR Lbl</td>
<td>$0 \rightarrow CON(Lbl)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ADD Lbl</td>
<td>$R + CON(Lbl) \rightarrow R$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>INCREMENT Lbl</td>
<td>$CON(Lbl) + 1 \rightarrow CON(Lbl)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SUBTRACT Lbl</td>
<td>$R - CON(Lbl) \rightarrow R$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>DECREMENT Lbl</td>
<td>$CON(Lbl) - 1 \rightarrow CON(Lbl)$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>COMPARE Lbl</td>
<td>if $CON(Lbl) &gt; R$ then $GT = 1$ else $0$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>if $CON(Lbl) = R$ then $EQ = 1$ else $0$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>if $CON(Lbl) &lt; R$ then $LT = 1$ else $0$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>JUMP Lbl</td>
<td>$ADDR(Lbl) \rightarrow PC$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>JUMPGT Lbl</td>
<td>if $GT = 1$ then $ADDR(Lbl) \rightarrow PC$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Assemblers and Assembly Language: An Example Assembly Language (Cont’d)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OC</th>
<th>Instruction</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>JUMPEQ Lbl</td>
<td>if ( EQ = 1 ) then ( ADDR(Lbl) \rightarrow PC )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>JUMPLT Lbl</td>
<td>if ( LT = 1 ) then ( ADDR(Lbl) \rightarrow PC )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>JUMPNEQ Lbl</td>
<td>if ( EQ = 0 ) then ( ADDR(Lbl) \rightarrow PC )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>IN Lbl</td>
<td>Store input value at ( ADDR(Lbl) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>OUT Lbl</td>
<td>Output ( CON(Lbl) )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>HALT</td>
<td>Stop program execution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pseudo-op</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>.DATA Val</td>
<td>Create memory cell with value ( Val )</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.BEGIN</td>
<td>Begin program translation process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>.END</td>
<td>End program translation process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assemblers and Assembly Language: An Example Assembly Language (Cont’d)

- Access .DATA-created values with symbolic labels, e.g.,

  \[
  \text{NEGSEVEN: .DATA -7} \\
  \]

  \[
  \downarrow \\
  \\
  \text{54: 10000111} \\
  \]

  \[
  \text{NEGSEVEN = 54} \\
  \]

- To prevent .DATA-created values from being interpreted as instructions, place all .DATA pseudo-ops after \text{HALT} at the end of the program.
Assemblers and Assembly Language: Example Assembly Language Code

set $A$ to the value of $B + C$

LOAD B
ADD C
STORE A

A: .DATA 1
B: .DATA 2
C: .DATA 3
Assemblers and Assembly Language: Example Assembly Language Code (Cont’d)

if $A > B$ then
  set $C$ to the value of $A$
else
  set $C$ to the value of $B$

LOAD B
COMPARE A
JUMPGT IFPART
LOAD B
STORE C
JUMP ENDIF

IFPART:
LOAD A
STORE C

ENDIF:

A: .DATA 1
B: .DATA 2
C: .DATA 3
Assemblers and Assembly Language:
Example Assembly Language Code (Cont’d)

set $IND$ to 0
while $IND \leq MAXIND$ do
  \langle LOOPBODY \rangle
  set $IND$ to $IND + 1$

CLEAR $IND$
LOOPSTART: LOAD $MAXIND$
COMPARE $IND$
JUMP $GT$ LOOPEND
\langle LOOPBODY \rangle
INCREMENT $IND$
JUMP LOOPSTART

LOOPEND:  \cdots
\cdots

$IND$: .DATA 0
$MAXIND$: .DATA 25
Assemblers and Assembly Language: An Assembly Language Program

Consider the following algorithm for computing and printing the sum of all values in a $-1$-terminated list:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Operation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Set $SUM$ to 0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Read the first list value into $CURVAL$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>while ($CURVAL \neq -1$) do</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Set $SUM$ to $SUM + CURVAL$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Read the next list value into $CURVAL$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Print the value of $SUM$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Stop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Let’s implement this algorithm in assembly language.
Assemblers and Assembly Language: 
An Assembly Language Program (Cont’d)

Step 1
SUM: .DATA 0
CURVAL: .DATA 0
ENDVAL: .DATA -1
.END

Step 2
.IN CURVAL

Step 3
LOOPSTART:
LOAD ENDVAL
COMPARE CURVAL
JUMPEQ LOOPEND

Step 4
LOAD SUM
ADD CURVAL
STORE SUM

Step 5
IN CURVAL
JUMP LOOPSTART

Step 6
LOOPEND:
OUT SUM

Step 7
HALT
Assemblers and Assembly Language: The Big Picture

Figure 6.4
The Translation/Loading/Execution Process (Assembly --> M.C.)
Major duties of an operating system:

- **User Interface**: Accept system commands from user and, if these commands are valid, schedule appropriate system software to execute command.

- **System Security and Protection**: Determine valid users and valid activities and accesses for users using usernames, passwords, and access control lists.

- **Efficient Management of Resources**: Optimize processor use by maintaining Running (active program), Ready (programs ready to execute), and Waiting (programs waiting on I/O requests) queues.

- **Safe Use of Resources**: Prevent deadlock (two or more users have partial required resources) using resolution algorithms and protocols.
• A compiler translates a program in a high-level programming language into a behaviorally equivalent program in a lower-level programming language.

• First compilers developed by Grace Hopper in early 1950s.

• Compilers can be cascaded, e.g., high-level language $\Rightarrow$ medium-level language $\Rightarrow$ assembly language $\Rightarrow$ machine language.
Implementing System Software: Programming Languages

John Backus (1924–2007)

Grace Hopper teaching COBOL (early 1960’s)

- FORTRAN (FORmula TRANslation) created by Backus team at IBM in 1957; designed for scientific computation.
- COBOL (COnmon Business-Oriented Language) created by industry / government committee in 1959.
Implementing System Software: Programming Languages (Cont’d)

- BASIC (Beginner’s All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) created by Thomas Kurtz (1928–) and John Kemeney (1926-1992) at Dartmouth College in 1964.
- Designed as a programming language for *everyone*. 
Implementing System Software: Operating Systems

- OS only possible after sufficient computer memory available for system software starting around 1955.

- Three OS generations to date:

- Future OS will incorporate multimedia user interfaces (e.g., voice / gesture-based) and fully distributed execution.
Implementing System Software: User Interfaces

Doug Engelbart (1925-2013)  
Computer Mouse (1965)

- Engelbart and colleagues develop graphical user interface (GUI) and computer mouse at Stanford starting in 1963.
Implementing System Software: User Interfaces (Cont’d)

“The Mother of All Demos” (1968)
Implementing System Software: User Interfaces (Cont’d)

Xerox Alto (1973) [$25K (est)]

- Alto was first modern GUI-driven PC; also incorporated local-area networking and laserjet printers (WYSIWYG).

Xerox Star (1981) [$75K]

- Star intended for use in large corporations.
Implementing System Software: User Interfaces (Cont’d)
Starting in 1979, Steve Jobs re-creates GUI-based functionality at Apple in the Lisa and Macintosh PCs.

Part of Macintosh application and OS development sub-contracted to Microsoft starting in 1981.
Microsoft releases Windows v1.0 in 1985; legally emulated portions of Lisa and Mac look.

Microsoft releases Windows v2.0 in late 1987; is not only much faster but (now illegally) identical to Mac look.


By late 1980s, Windows has 90% market-share in GUI-based PC computing.
...And If You Liked This...

- MUN Computer Science courses on this area:
  - COMP 2001: Object-oriented Programming and HCI
  - COMP 2003: Operating Systems
  - COMP 3300: Interactive Technologies
  - COMP 4712: Compiler Construction

- MUN Computer Science professors teaching courses / doing research in this area:
  - Ed Brown
  - Rod Byrne
  - Oscar Meruvia-Pastor