

Introduction to 15-410

Dave Eckhardt
de0u@andrew.cmu.edu

Synchronization

- Textbook
 - Silberschatz, Galvin, & Gagne
 - Operating System Concepts, 7th edition
 - CMU Bookstore has copies of text
- If you plan to add, please do so *today*
 - Creating your personal AFS volume takes time
- Self-assessment exercise?
 - Not mandatory
 - A very good sanity-check, though

Outline

- People
 - Me, us, you
- Administrative information
 - Academic conduct
- Class goals
- Reading material

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- Buzzword compliance
 - Ph.D., Computer Science, CMU, May 2002
 - “An Internet-style Approach to Managing Wireless Link Errors”
- Building Unix kernels since ~1985
 - PDP-11, Version 7 Unix
 - Not really a BSD bigot
- Not as awful as it once was
 - <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~davide>

TA's (so far)

- Nathaniel Wesley Filardo (not his full name)
 - A man of many talents (and majors)
 - Winner of the “mutex throw weight” award
 - Second time serving as a 410 TA
- Glenn Willen
 - A delectable mix of talent, taste, and discretion
 - Fewer middle names than Wes
 - Fewer *first* names than Wes
 - Second time serving as a 410 TA

TA's

- As a team
 - Strong background
 - Here to help!

Y'all - Background

- Junior/Senior/other?
- CS/ECE/INI/other?
- Group programming before?
- Done a branch merge before?

Y'all - Reading

- Read a Ph.D. thesis?
- Academic journal article?
- Attended an academic conference?
- Read a non-class CS book last semester?

Y'all – Career plans

- Industry
- Graduate school
- Law/med/business school?
- Mountain top?

Information sources

- Web site <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~410>
 - You are *required* to read the syllabus
- Q: Can I use a linked list for ...?
 - A: [academic.cs.15-410.qa](#)
 - Reading this will be to your benefit
- Q: Important announcements from course staff...?
 - A: [academic.cs.15-410.announce](#) (hmm...)
 - *You are responsible for reading this often*

Information Sources

- Q: I have a final exam conflict...
- Q: The license server is down...
- Q: AFS says “no such device”...
 - A: staff-410@cs.cmu.edu

Health Problems

- *Somebody* will probably get mono or pneumonia
 - If not, only because of something more creative
- Work-blocking health problem?
 - Go *early* to Student Health (etc.)
 - *Avoid* “For the past two weeks I dragged myself to class but couldn't focus on programming”
 - Try to get paper documentation of work restrictions
 - Your program administrator will inform instructors
 - CS: cathyf@cs

Academic honesty

- See syllabus
- Learning is good
 - ...practices which avoid learning are *double-plus ungood*
- Plagiarism is bad
 - ...credit *must* be given where due

Academic conduct

- Being a partner
 - Responsible
 - I am writing three grad school applications next week
 - Irresponsible
 - [vanish for 1 week, drop class]

The deadline disaster

- “If you wait until the last minute, it takes only a minute!” -- Vince Cate
- Small problem
 - Your grade will probably suffer
- Big problem
 - *Learning* and *retention* require sleep
 - Why work super-hard only to forget?

Course Goals

- Operating Systems
 - What they are
 - Design decisions
 - Actual construction
- Team programming
 - Design, documentation
 - Source control
 - People skills

Course Plan

- Lectures
 - *Many* topics will be covered by text
 - But skipping every lecture will challenge your grade
 - The map is not the terrain, the slides are not the lecture
 - You will miss Q&A
 - We expect you to attend lectures
 - Details: see syllabus

Course Plan

- Projects
 - “Stack crawler” - readiness check *[1-person project]*
 - Bare-machine video game *[1-person project]*
 - Thread library
 - OS kernel
 - Kernel extension
- Project environment
 - Virtutech Simics™ PC simulator
 - Can also run on real PC hardware

Course plan

- Homework assignments
 - ~3, to deepen understanding of selected topics
- Reading assignment
 - Pick something fun, write a *brief* report
- Mid-term, Final exam
 - Closed-book

Team programming

- Why?
 - **Not** for instructor's convenience!
 - Allows attacking larger problems
 - Teaches **job skills** you will need
 - Very few “individual contributor” jobs, even academia
- Team programming != “software engineering”
 - No requirement analysis
 - No release staging, design for growth, ...
 - Not a complete “life cycle”

Team programming – Styles

- Waterfall model
- Spiral model
- “Extreme Programming”
- “Pair Programming”
 - Williams & Kessler, Pair Programming
- What you choose is up to you
 - This is an opportunity to read about models

Team programming - Design

- Decomposition into modules
 - (Yes, we expect modularity even in C!)
- Design for *team implementation*
 - May need to adjust design to work in parallel

Team programming - Documentation

- For the non-compiler consumers of source code
- Doxygen documentation extraction system
 - Embed documentation in comments
 - Generate HTML index
 - Generate LaTeX
 - ...
- We intend to *read your documentation*
- We intend to *read your code*

Team programming - Source control

- Other buzzwords
 - Revision control, configuration management
- Goals
 - Re-create past builds
 - Compare stable states
 - Control inter-developer interference
 - [Manage multiple shipped product versions]

Team programming - Source control

- Even for “small” projects?
 - “It worked 3 hours ago, now it dies on start-up”
 - “I thought I fixed that already!”
- Most students who really try it keep using it

Team programming - People skills

- Working with other people is *hard*
 - People think differently
 - People plan differently
- Pre-planning
 - Agree on work style, arrangements
 - Setting milestones
 - Pre-scheduled common time slots
- Handling problems
 - Involving “management” before it's too late

Grading philosophy

- C – all parts of problem addressed
- B – solution is complete, stable, robust
- A – excellent
 - Somebody might want to re-use some of your code
- Numbers
 - A = 90-100%, B = 80-90%, ... (roughly)
- “Curving” - maybe, not necessarily
 - Lots of A's would be *fine with us*
 - *But this requires clean, communicative code!*

Closing

- comp.risks newsgroup
 - Developers should read this
 - Managers should read this
 - Journalists should read this
- Textbook
 - Chapters 1, 2
 - Chapter 13.1, 13.2, 13.3.3
- *Start choosing a partner for P2/P3*

Further Reading

- Sleep to Remember
 - Matthew P. Walker
 - American Scientist, July/August 2006
 - “The brain needs sleep before and after learning new things, regardless of the type of memory. Naps can help, but caffeine isn't an effective substitute.”