15-410 "What could possibly go wrong?"

Paradise Lost Sep. 21, 2007

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Synchronization

Cluster seats

- Who found this an issue?
 - How well do the Macs work?

Synchronization

Cluster seats

- Who found this an issue?
 - How well do the Macs work?

A new space opening up

- West Wing dorm, ground floor
 - Open to anybody with a CMU i.d. card
- Mixture of machine types, work-area types
 - Experimental
- Planned opening Monday

Outline

When to use if() vs. while()

Consider the lowly worker thread

```
/* note: not a thrgrp_*() worker thread */
void
worker(void *ignored)
{
  workitem *work;
  while (work = find_work())
    perform(work);
  thr_exit((void *) 0);
}
```

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What's Wrong With This Picture?

```
workitem *
find_work(void)
  workitem *w;
  mutex_lock(&m);
  if (going_out_of_business)
    w = (workitem *) 0;
  else
    w = (workitem *) dequeue(q);
  mutex_unlock(&m);
  return (w);
```

Better?

```
mutex_lock(&m);
if (going_out_of_business)
  w = (workitem *) 0;
else {
  if (!(w = (workitem *) dequeue(q))) {
      cond_wait(&new_work, &m);
      w = (workitem *) dequeue(queue);
mutex_unlock(&m);
return (w);
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```

What We Hope For

What Went Wrong?

What went wrong?

What Went Wrong?

What went wrong?

Nothing!

What Went Wrong?

What went wrong?

Nothing!

But what if there is another thread?

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Not Exactly What We Hope For

find_work()	queue_work()	find_work()
lock(&m);		
if (!deq(.).)		
<pre>cwait(&new, &m);</pre>		
	<pre>lock(&m);</pre>	
	enqueue()	
	csignal(&new)	;
	unlock(&m);	
		lock(&m);
		if (!deq(.).)
		unlock(&m);
w = deq(.)		return(w);
return (0);		

Have We Seen This Before?

What went wrong?

- Protected world state wasn't ready for us
- We went to sleep
- Somebody prepared the world for us to run
- We ran
 - We assumed nobody else had run
 - We assumed the world state was still ready for us

To "if()" Or Not To "if()"?

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```
mutex_lock(&m);
if (going_out_of_business)
  w = (workitem *) 0;
else {
  while (!(w = (workitem *) dequeue(q)))
      cond_wait(&new_work, &m);
mutex_unlock(&m);
return (w);
/* XXX still wrong! - rewrite after class */
```

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Summary

if() vs. while()

 If somebody can revoke your happiness, you'd better check

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