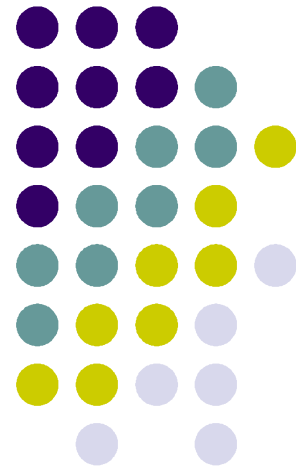
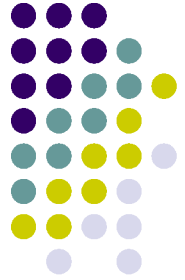


Bootstrapping

Dave Eckhardt
Steve Muckle



Synchronization



- ◆ Checkpoint 1
 - Monday, Wean 5207
 - Look for mail
 - You must attend (unless you make arrangements before Saturday evening)



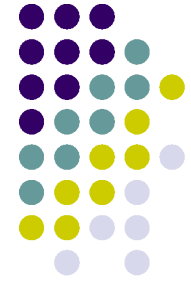
Synchronization

- ◆ Who uses...?
 - Andrew 52xx Linux boxes? Full?
 - West Wing Linux boxes? Full?
 - Personally owned machine?
 - Crash box?
- ◆ Simics on cycle servers
 - Please limit yourself to 1 simics on 1 machine
- ◆ Partner reminder
 - If P2 was troubling, and P3 isn't improving, see us



Motivation

- ◆ What happens when you turn on your PC?
- ◆ How do we get to `kernel_main()`?



Overview

- ◆ Requirements of Booting
- ◆ Ground zero
- ◆ BIOS
- ◆ Boot loader
- ◆ Our projects: Multiboot, OSKit
- ◆ BIOS extensions: PXE, APM
- ◆ Other universes: “big iron”, Open Firmware
- ◆ Further reading



Requirements of Booting

- ◆ Initialize machine to a known state
- ◆ Make sure basic hardware works
- ◆ Inventory hardware
- ◆ Load a real operating system
- ◆ Run the real operating system



Ground Zero

- ◆ You turn on the machine
- ◆ Execution begins in real mode at a specific memory address
 - Real mode - primeval x86 addressing mode
 - **Only 1 MB of memory is addressable**
 - First instruction fetch address is 0xFFFF0 (???)



Ground Zero

- ◆ You turn on the machine
- ◆ Execution begins in real mode at a specific memory address
 - Real mode - primeval x86 addressing mode
 - **Only 1 MB of memory is addressable**
 - First instruction fetch address is 0xFFFF0 (???)
 - **“End of memory” (20-bit infinity), minus 4**
 - **Contains a jump to the actual BIOS entry point**
 - Great, what’s a BIOS?

Basic Input/Output System (BIOS)



- ◆ Code stored in mostly-read-only memory
 - Flash (previously EEPROM, previously EPROM)
- ◆ Configures hardware details
 - RAM refresh rate or bus speed
 - Password protection
 - Boot-device order
- ◆ Loads OS, acts as mini-OS
- ◆ Provides some device drivers to real OS



BIOS POST

- ◆ Power On Self Test (POST)
- ◆ Scan for critical resources
 - RAM
 - **Test it (only a little!)**
 - Graphics card – look for driver code at 0xC0000
 - Disk – look for driver code at 0xC8000
 - Keyboard
- ◆ Missing something?
 - Beep



BIOS Boot-Device Search

- ◆ Consult saved settings for selected order
 - “A: C: G:” (maybe PXE)
- ◆ Load the first sector from a boot device
 - Could be a floppy, hard disk, CDROM
 - Without a BIOS, we’d be in a bit of a jam
- ◆ If the last two bytes are AA55, we’re set
- ◆ Otherwise look somewhere else
 - If no luck, strike terror into user's heart:
 - **“No Operating System Present”**



BIOS Boot-Sector Launch

- ◆ Boot sector is copied to 0x7C00
- ◆ Execution is transferred to 0x7C00
- ◆ Extra step for hard disk or CD-ROM
 - Boot sector (“MBR”) knows about partitions
 - **BIOS starts it running at 0x7C00, of course**
 - **Copies itself elsewhere in memory, jumps there**
 - **Loads “active” partition's boot sector at 0x7C00**
- ◆ Now we're executing the boot loader – the first “software” to execute on the PC



Boot Loader

- ◆ Some boot loaders designed to load one OS
- ◆ Others give you a choice of which to load
- ◆ Some are small and have a simple interface
 - “F1 FreeBSD F2 Windows”
- ◆ Some are large, contain GUI, shell prompt
- ◆ We use GRUB
 - <http://www.gnu.org/software/grub/>



Boot Loader's Job

- ◆ Mission: load operating system
- ◆ From where?
 - “/boot/kernel.gz” is easier said than done!
 - May need to understand a file system
 - **Directories, inodes, symbolic links!**
 - May need to understand *multiple* file systems
 - **Single disk may contain more than one**
 - **Layout defined by “partition label”**
 - ...and “extended partition label”



Boot Loader's Job

- ◆ Mission: load operating system
- ◆ From where?
 - “/boot/kernel.gz” is easier said than done
 - May need to understand a file system
 - **Directories, inodes, symbolic links!**
 - May need to understand *multiple* file systems
 - **Single disk may contain more than one**
 - **Layout defined by “partition label”**
 - ...and “extended partition label”
- ◆ But...but...boot loader is 510 bytes of code!



Multi-Stage Boot Loader

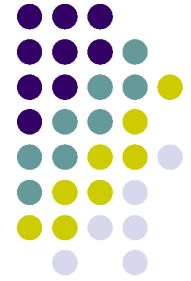
- ◆ GRUB is larger than one sector
- ◆ First sector, loaded in by the BIOS...
 - ...just loads the rest of the boot loader
 - **“GRUB Loading stage2”**
- ◆ GRUB then presents boot menu
- ◆ The OS-load challenge
 - BIOS runs in real mode – only 1 meg of RAM!
 - OS “may be” larger than 1 meg
 - **Linux – often; Windows – absolutely!**



Brain-Switching

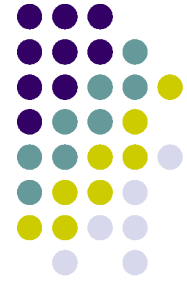
- ◆ Switch back and forth between real and protected mode
 - Real mode: BIOS works, provides disk driver
 - Protected mode: can access lots of memory
- ◆ Switching code is tricky
 - Somewhat like OS process context switch
 - Roughly 16 carefully-crafted instructions each way
- ◆ Load done \Rightarrow jump to the kernel's entry point
 - How do we know the kernel's entry point?

Entry Point, Binary Format, ...



- ◆ Can't we just jump to the first byte?

Entry Point, Binary Format, ...



- ◆ Can't we just jump to the first byte?
- ◆ Probably not
 - If kernel is a “regular executable” it begins with an “executable file header” (e.g., ELF)
 - If the OS has the concept of “BSS”, the zeroes aren't in the file...
- ◆ Loading the bytes into RAM isn't enough
 - We must understand & mutate them



Multiboot Specification

- ◆ Attempt to define “portable kernel format”
- ◆ Multiboot “standard”
 - Binary specifies entry point &c
- ◆ The multiboot header must be located in the first 8192 bytes
- ◆ This is part of the mysterious 410kern/boot/head.S...

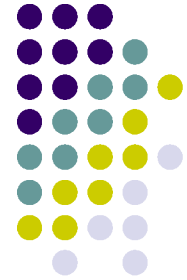
0x1badb002
flags
checksum
header_addr
load_addr
load_end_addr
bss_end_addr
entry_addr



410 “Pebbles” (from OSkit)

- ◆ Entry point is asm function `_start` in `head.o`
- ◆ This calls other assembly code to set up GDT, TSS, IDT
- ◆ This calls the first C function, `mb_entry()`

OSkit



- ◆ `mb_entry()` calls:
 - `mb_util_Imm()`: tell LMM which RAM the BIOS and boot loader say to use
 - `mb_util_cmdline()`: parse “command line” provided by boot loader (yielding `argv[]`)
 - `sim_booted()`: tell Simics which kernel to debug
 - `kernel_main()`...that's you!

PXE



- ◆ Preboot Execution Environment
- ◆ “How a PC should net boot”
 - DHCP protocol extensions to say
 - “I am a **PXE client of DHCP**”
 - “**My machine ID is ... my hardware type is ...**”
 - DHCP server assigns IP address
 - **Instructs client: network settings, TFTP server, file**
 - Client downloads 2nd-stage boot via TFTP
- ◆ PXE libraries for downloaded loader to use
 - Ethernet, UDP, TFTP

APM



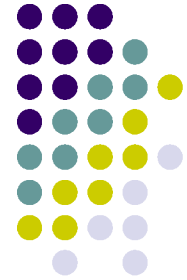
- ◆ Advanced Power Management
- ◆ Problem – Laptop hardware is “special”
 - Lots of power-critical hardware
 - Totally different from one machine to another
 - **Disk spin-down (“standard”, so may be fairly easy)**
 - **Display backlight, processor speed (not so easy)**
 - **South bridge, DRAM controller, keyboard...**
 - Sequencing these in the right order is very machine-specific
- ◆ Problem – user does things (close lid...)

APM



- ◆ Solution - “power kernel”
 - OS asks it to control power hardware
 - Power hardware tells OS about events
 - **Lid closed**
 - **Battery low**
- ◆ Complex rules for messaging back and forth
 - OS required to poll APM periodically
 - **May involve switch to 16-bit mode**
 - Suspend protocol: prepare/commit/abort...

ACPI



- ◆ Advanced Configuration & Power Interface
 - APM's “big brother”
- ◆ Good news
 - OS gets more understanding, control
 - BIOS provides ACPI code to OS in virtual-machine format

ACPI



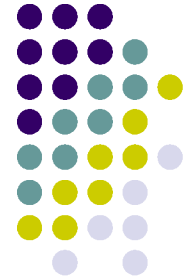
- ◆ Bad news – implementation
 - What the BIOS tells you is often wrong
 - **Many “on this machine, patch this to that” fixes necessary**
 - **FreeBSD kernel contains “BIOS blacklist”**
 - Strings identifying BIOS versions known to have fatal ACPI bugs
 - **ACPI virtual-machine code often depends on being run by one particular virtual machine**
 - **ACPI “OS-independent” virtual machine code checks which OS is executing it and behaves differently(!!)**

ACPI



- ◆ Bad news – structural
 - Interaction between ACPI and other code is delicate and fraught with peril
 - **Should VGA BIOS “reset method” be called before or after restoring ACPI video state?**
- ◆ Bad news – throw weight
 - Specification pages
 - **1.0 = 400**
 - **2.0 = 500**
 - **3.0 = 600**

“Big Iron” (mainframes)



- ◆ “Boot loader” may be a separate machine
 - When main CPU powers on, it does not run code!
 - “Front-end processor” tasks
 - **Run thorough diagnostics on main machine**
 - **Store OS into its memory**
 - **Set its program counter to entry point**
 - **Turn on instruction fetching**
- ◆ “Front-end” also contains a debugger
 - Useful when your OS crashes

Open Firmware



- ◆ Sun & Mac hardware (until June 2005, sigh)
- ◆ Goal: share devices across processor families
 - Ethernet, SCSI disk controller, ...
- ◆ Solution
 - Processor-independent BIOS modules on cards
 - Collection of FORTH methods
 - **test, boot, open, close, read, write, etc.**
- ◆ “Boot ROM” may contain a small debugger
 - Sun, Mac do this... PCs are just starting to catch up

EFI



- ◆ “Next big thing” in the PC world
 - Including PC's made by Apple(!?)
- ◆ “Super sized”: #partitions, partition labels, ...
- ◆ More device drivers (not just disk, video)
 - May be signed, certified, protected
- ◆ Arriving mostly with x86-64 machines
- ◆ Many more interfaces, larger interfaces
 - Spec pages: EFI 1.10 = 1100, UEFI 2.1 = 1682, ...
 - EFI+ACPI: 2300 pages of fun for the whole family

Summary



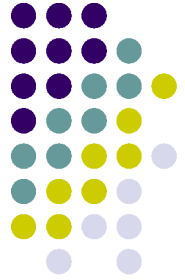
- ◆ It's a long, strange trip
 - Power on: maybe no RAM, maybe no CPU!!
 - **Maybe beep, maybe draw a sad face**
 - Locate OS
 - Load N stages
 - Tell kernel about the machine and the boot params
 - Provide support to kernel once it's running

Further Reading



- ◆ More BIOS details
 - <http://www.pcguide.com/ref/mbsys/bios/bootSequence-c.html>
 - <http://bioscentral.com/>
- ◆ A real memory tester - memtest86.com
- ◆ Open-source BIOS!
 - www.linuxbios.org
 - openbios.info
- ◆ PXE <ftp://download.intel.com/labs/manage/wfm/download/pxespec.pdf>

Further Reading



- ◆ ACPI
 - <http://www.acpi.info>
- ◆ EFI
 - <http://www.uefi.org>
 - (old) <http://www.intel.com/technology/efi/>