

# CS162

## Operating Systems and Systems Programming

### Lecture 3

## Processes (Continued)

**Professor Natacha Crooks**  
<https://cs162.org/>

Slides based on prior slide decks from David Culler, Ion Stoica, John Kubiawicz,  
Alison Norman and Lorenzo Alvisi

# Reminder

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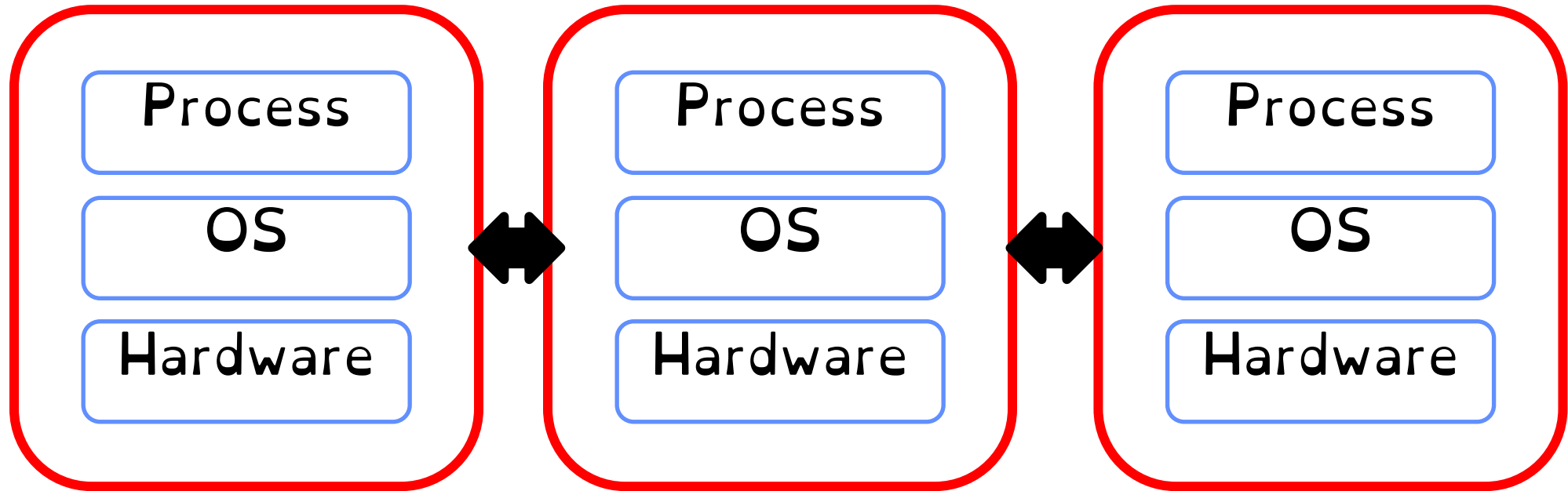
Drop now (by Sept 1<sup>st</sup>) or  
forever hold your peace

(aka stay enrolled in CS162)

# Recall: The Process

---

A executing program with **restricted rights**



Enforcing mechanism must not hinder **functionality** or hurt **performance**



# Recall: Operating System Kernel

---

Lowest level of OS running on system.

Kernel is **trusted** with **full access** to all hardware capabilities

All other software (OS or applications) is considered **untrusted**

Untrusted

Applications

Rest of OS

Trusted

Operating System Kernel

Untrusted

Hardware

# Recall: Dual Mode Operation

---

Use a bit to enable two modes of execution

## In User Mode

Processor checks each instruction before executing it

Executes a limited (safe) set of instructions

## In Kernel Mode

OS executes with protection checks off

Can execute any instructions



# Recall: Hardware must support

---

## 1) Privileged Instructions

Unsafe instructions  
cannot be executed in  
user mode

## 3) Interrupts

Ensure kernel can  
regain control from  
running process

## 2) Memory Isolation

Memory accesses  
outside a process's  
address space prohibited



## 4) Safe Transfers

Correctly transfer control  
from user-mode to kernel-  
mode and back

# Virtual Memory is Hard!

---

Virtualizing the CPU

Process Abstraction and API

Threads and Concurrency

Scheduling

Virtualizing Memory

Virtual Memory

Paging

Persistence

IO devices

File Systems

Distributed Systems

Challenges with distribution

Data Processing & Storage

# Goals for today

---

- **What hardware support is necessary to enable protection?**
- **61C Review: The Stack?**
- **How to switch from user mode to kernel mode and back?**



# Hardware must support

---

## 1) Privileged Instructions

Unsafe instructions  
cannot be executed in  
user mode

## 2) Memory Isolation

Memory accesses  
outside a process's  
address space prohibited

## 3) Interrupts

Ensure kernel can  
regain control from  
running process

## 4) Safe Transfers

Correctly transfer control  
from user-mode to kernel-  
mode and back

# Req 3/4: Interrupts

---

Kernel must be able to **regain control** of the processor

Hardware to the rescue! (Again x 2)

**Hardware Interrupts**

Set to interrupt processor after a specified delay or specified event and transfer control to (specific locations) in Kernel.

Resetting timer is a privileged operation

# Hardware must support

---

## 1) Privileged Instructions

Unsafe instructions  
cannot be executed in  
user mode

## 2) Memory Isolation

Memory accesses  
outside a process's  
address space prohibited

## 3) Interrupts

Ensure kernel can  
regain control from  
running process

## 4) Safe Transfers

Correctly transfer control  
from user-mode to kernel-  
mode and back

# Req 4/4: Safe Control Transfer

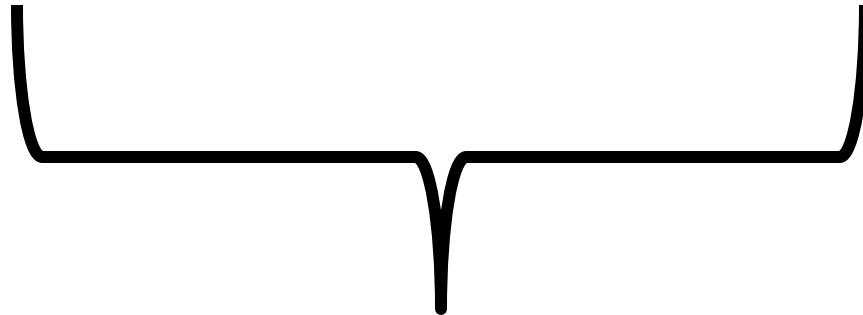
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How do safely/correctly transition from executing user process to executing the kernel?

1) System Calls

2) Exceptions

3) Interrupts



Asynchronous

Can be maskable or non-maskable

Synchronous Events  
(trapping)

# Safe Control Transfer: System Calls

---

User program requests OS service  
Transfers to kernel at well-defined location

Synchronous/non-maskable

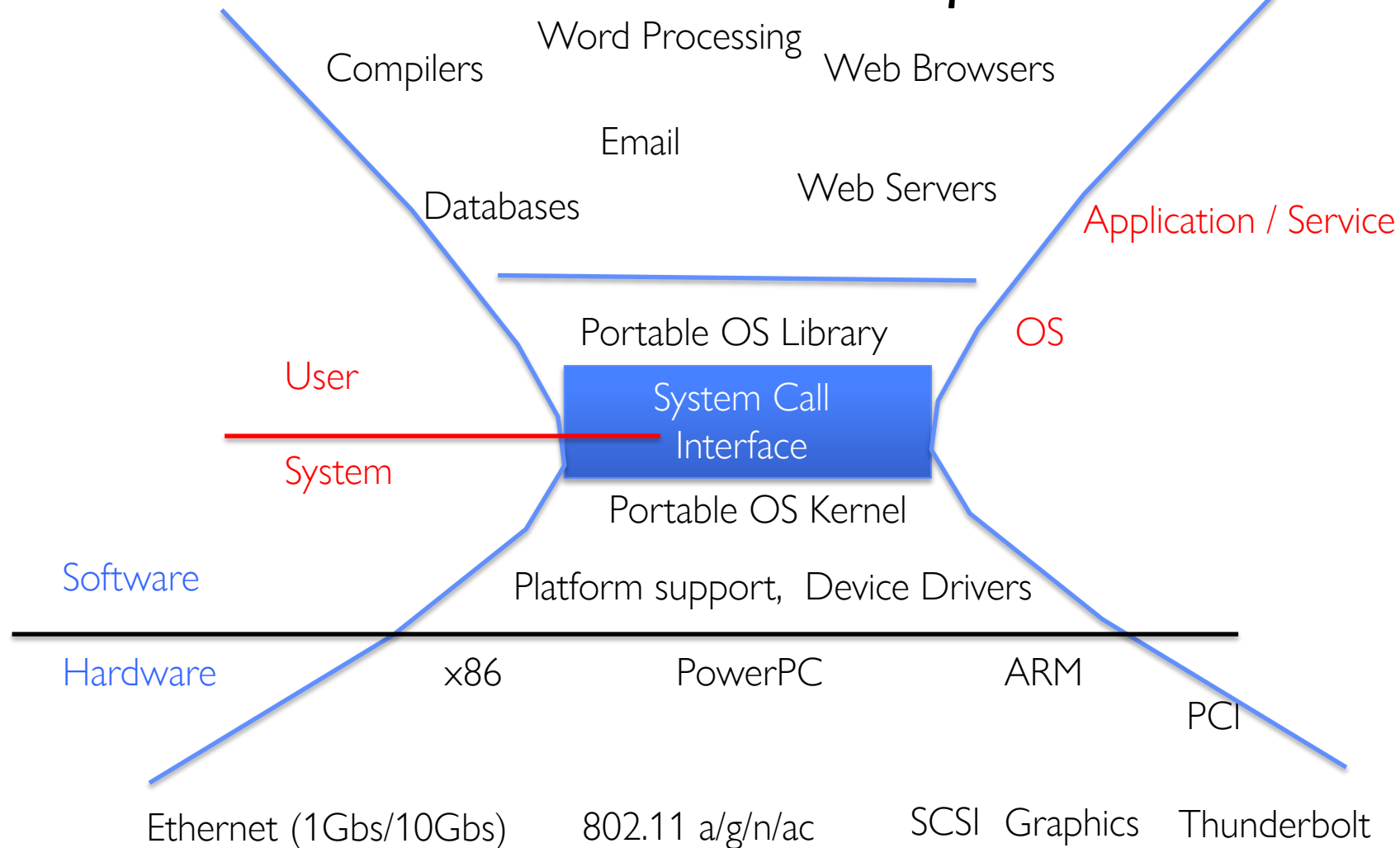
Read input/write to screen, to files, create new processes, send network packets, get time, etc.

How many system calls in Linux 3.0 ?  
a) 15 b) 336 c) 1021 d) 21121

<https://man7.org/linux/man-pages/man2/syscalls.2.html>

# System Calls are the “Narrow Waste”

Simple and powerful interface allows separation of concern  
Eases innovation in user space and HW



# System Calls in the Wild (In Linux)

torvalds / linux Public

Notifications

Fork 44.2k

Star 137k

<> Code Pull requests 313 Actions Projects Security Insights

v4.17 linux / arch / x86 / entry / syscalls / syscall\_64.tbl

Go to file

Dominik Brodowski syscalls/core, syscalls/x86: Rename struct pt\_regs-based sys\_\*

Latest commit d5a0052 on Apr 9, 2018 History

7 contributors

386 lines (385 sloc) 15.2 KB

Raw Blame

```
1 #
2 # 64-bit system call numbers and entry vectors
3 #
4 # The format is:
5 # <number> <abi> <name> <entry point>
6 #
7 # The __x64_sys_*() stubs are created on-the-fly for sys_*() system calls
8 #
9 # The abi is "common", "64" or "x32" for this file.
10 #
11 0 common read __x64_sys_read
12 1 common write __x64_sys_write
13 2 common open __x64_sys_open
14 3 common close __x64_sys_close
15 4 common stat __x64_sys_newstat
16 5 common fstat __x64_sys_newfstat
17 6 common lstat __x64_sys_newlstat
18 7 common poll __x64_sys_poll
19 8 common lseek __x64_sys_lseek
```

# Safe Control Transfer: Exceptions

---

Any **unexpected condition** caused by user program behaviour

Stop executing process and enter kernel at specific  
**exception handler**

Synchronous and non-maskable

Process missteps (division by zero, writing read-only memory)  
Attempts to execute a privileged instruction in user mode  
Debugger breakpoints!



# Exceptions in the Wild (In Linux)

The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the `torvalds/linux` repository. The file path is `linux/arch/x86/include/asm/trapnr.h`. The commit is by `joergroedel` with the message `x86/boot/compressed/64: Add stage1 #VC handler`, dated Sep 7, 2020. The file is 32 lines long (29 sloc) and 1.29 KB. The code defines various x86 traps and exceptions.

```
1  /* SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-2.0 */
2  #ifndef _ASM_X86_TRAPNR_H
3  #define _ASM_X86_TRAPNR_H
4
5  /* Interrupts/Exceptions */
6
7  #define X86_TRAP_DE      0    /* Divide-by-zero */
8  #define X86_TRAP_DB      1    /* Debug */
9  #define X86_TRAP_NMI     2    /* Non-maskable Interrupt */
10 #define X86_TRAP_BP      3    /* Breakpoint */
11 #define X86_TRAP_OF      4    /* Over-flow */
12 #define X86_TRAP_BR      5    /* Bound Range Exceeded */
13 #define X86_TRAP_UD      6    /* Invalid Opcode */
14 #define X86_TRAP_NM      7    /* Device Not Available */
15 #define X86_TRAP_DF      8    /* Double Fault */
16 #define X86_TRAP_OLD_MF  9    /* Coprocessor Segment Overrun */
17 #define X86_TRAP_TS     10    /* Invalid TSS */
18 #define X86_TRAP_NP     11    /* Segment Not Present */
19 #define X86_TRAP_SS     12    /* Stack Segment Fault */
20 #define X86_TRAP_GP     13    /* General Protection Fault */
21 #define X86_TRAP_PF     14    /* Page Fault */
```

# Safe Control Transfer: Interrupts

---

Asynchronous signal to the processor that some external event has occurred and may require attention

When process interrupt, stop current process and enter kernel at designated **interrupt handler**

Timer Interrupts, IO Interrupts, Interprocessor Interrupts

# Safe Control Transfer: Kernel->User

---

## New Process Creation

Kernel instantiates datastructures, sets registers, switches to user mode

## Resume after an exception/interrupt/syscall

Resume execution by restoring PC, registers, and unsetting mode

## Switching to a different process

Save old process state. Load new process state (restore PC, registers). Unset mode.

# Goals for today

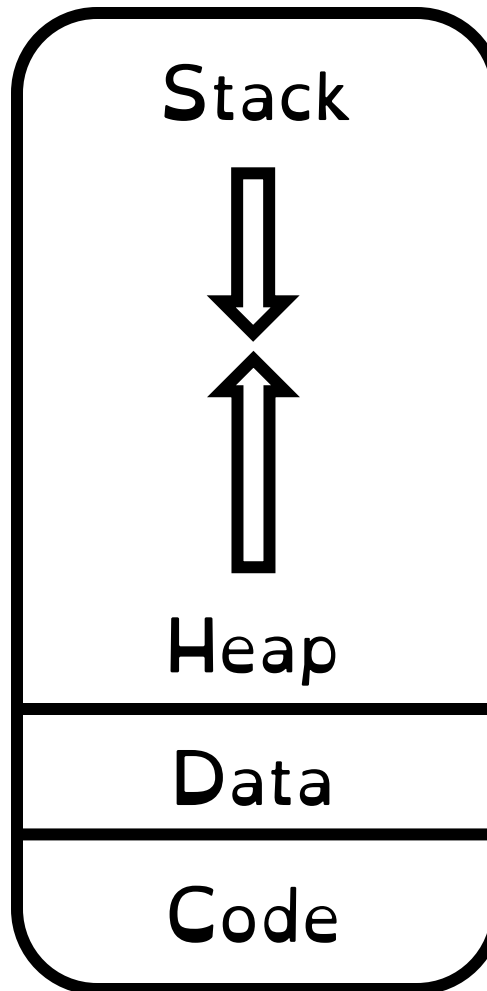
---

- **61C Review: The Stack**
- **How to switch from user mode to kernel mode and back?**
  - For interrupts,
  - For exceptions,
  - For syscalls

# Goal 2: The Stack is Back (Review)

---

## Address Space Of Process



**Stack** Contains temporary data such as method/function parameters, return address and local variables.

**Heap** Dynamically allocated memory to a process during its run time.

0xFFFFFFFF

```
int foo() {  
    int a;  
    Foo* foo= malloc(sizeof(foo));  
}
```

0x00000000

# Stack Terminology (Review)

---

## Stack Frame

All the information on the stack pertaining to a function call

## Frame Pointer (%ebp)

Contain base address of function's frame.

## Stack Pointer (%esp)

Points to the next item on the stack.

## Instruction Pointer (%eip)

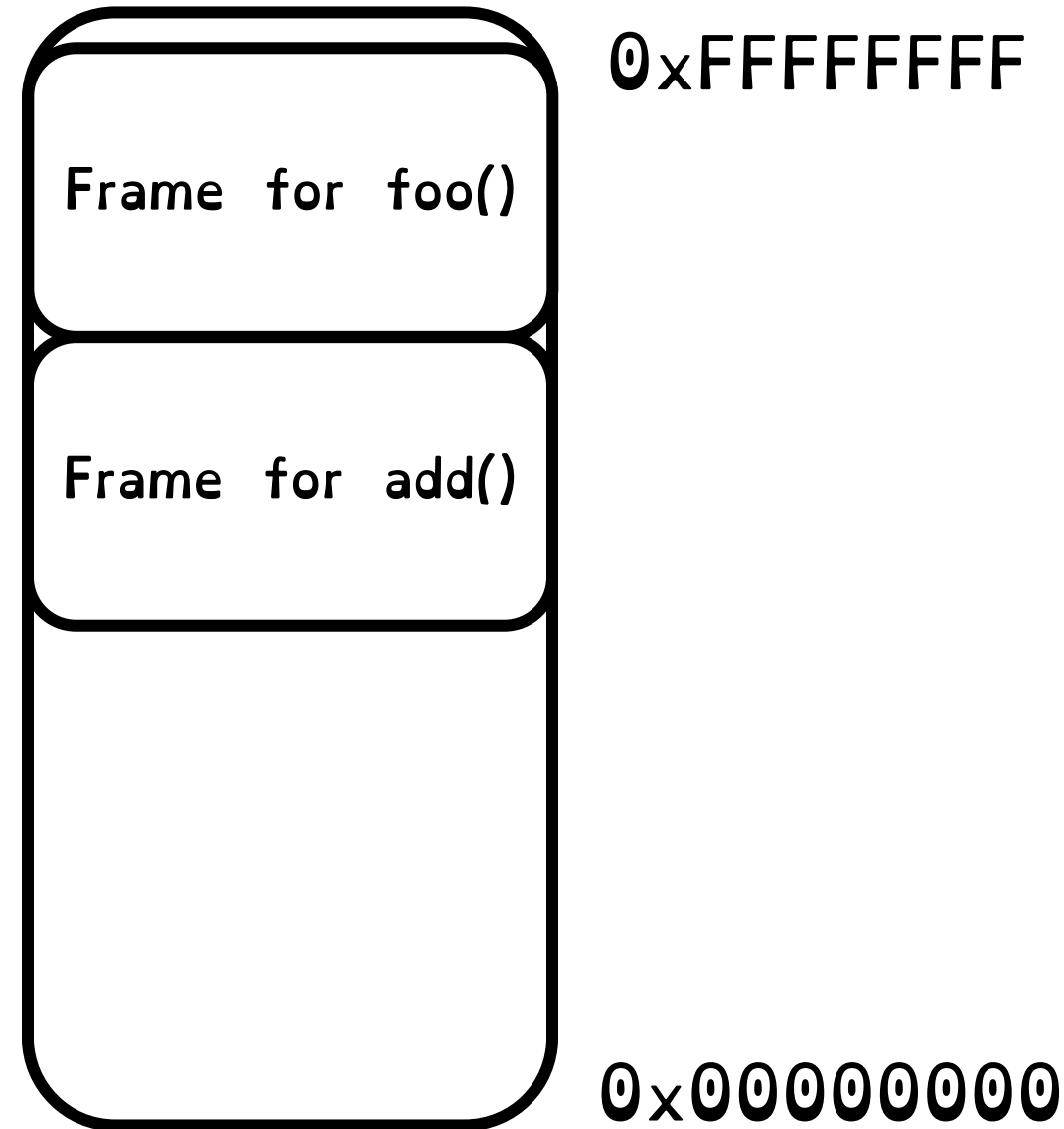
Indicates the current address of the program being executed

# The Call Stack (Review)

---

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

```
void foo() {  
    int x = add(5,10);  
}
```



# The Call Stack (Review)

---

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

```
void foo() {  
    int x = add(5,10);  
}
```

```
crooks@laptop> gcc -S -m32 add.c
```

add:

```
    pushl   %ebp  
    movl   %esp, %ebp  
    subl   $16, %esp  
    movl   8(%ebp), %edx  
    movl   12(%ebp), %eax  
    addl   %edx, %eax  
    movl   %eax, -4(%ebp)  
    movl   -4(%ebp), %eax  
    leave/ret
```

foo:

```
    pushl   %ebp  
    movl   %esp, %ebp  
    pushl   $10  
    pushl   $5  
    call   add  
    addl   $8, %esp  
    movl   %eax, -4(%ebp)  
    leave/ret
```

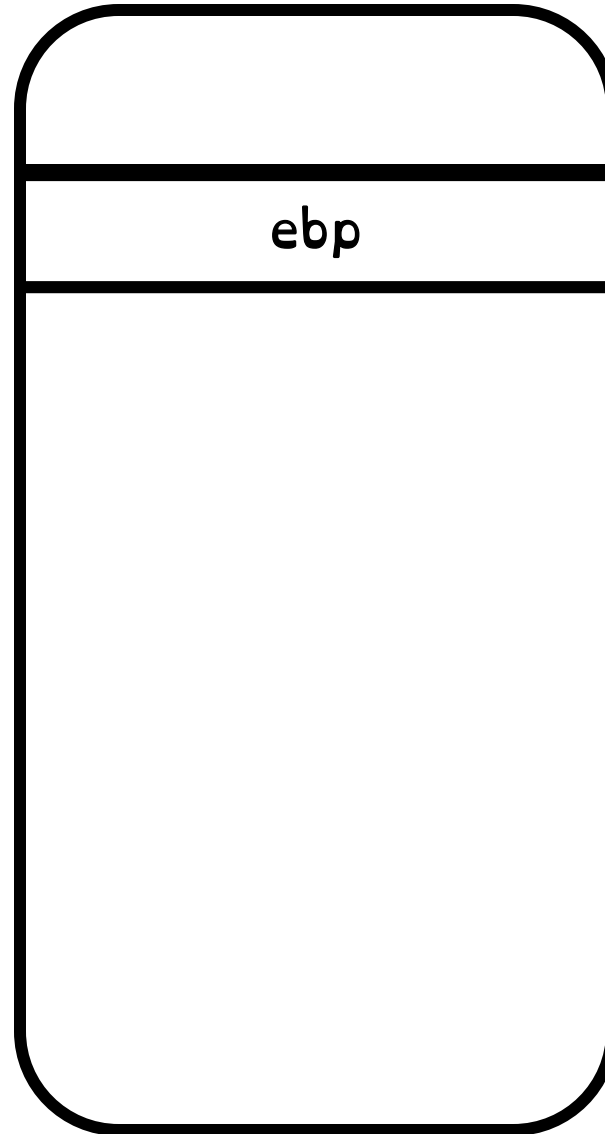


# The Call Stack (Review)

---

```
void foo() {  
    int x = add(5,10);  
}
```

```
foo:  
    pushl    %ebp  
    movl    %esp, %ebp
```



Stack Pointer (esp)

Save old frame  
pointer.

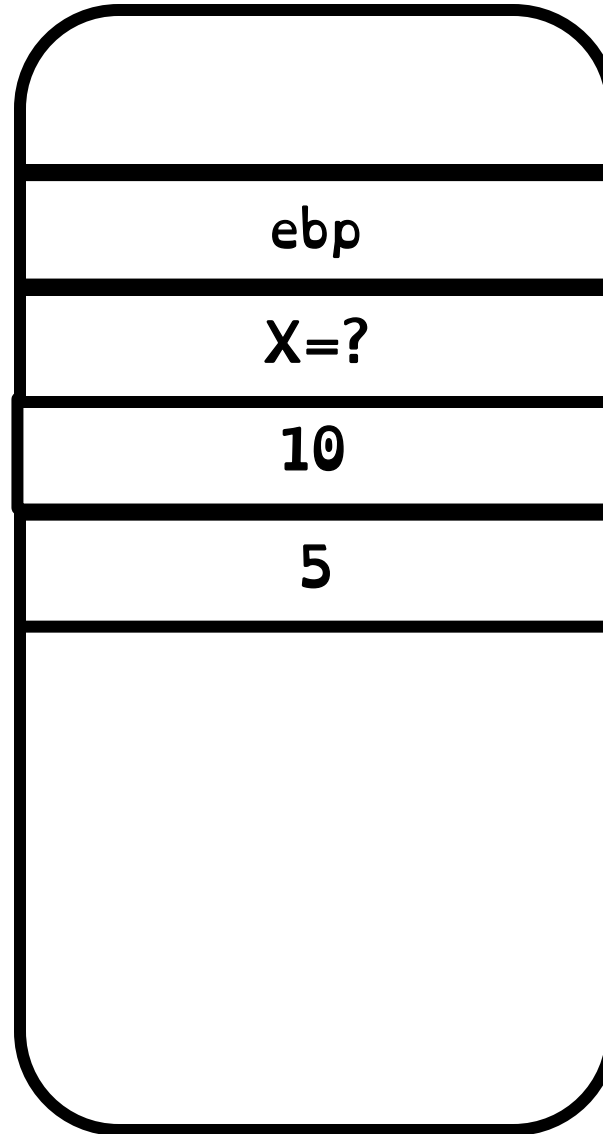
Set current frame  
pointer to stack  
pointer

Frame pointer is base  
of stack frame

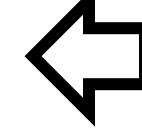
# The Call Stack (Review)

```
void foo() {  
    int x = add(5,10);  
}
```

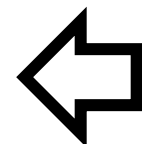
```
foo:  
    pushl    %ebp  
    movl    %esp, %ebp  
    subl    $4, %esp  
    pushl    $10  
    pushl    $5
```



Stack Pointer (esp)



Stack Pointer (esp)



Stack Pointer (esp)

Create space for x

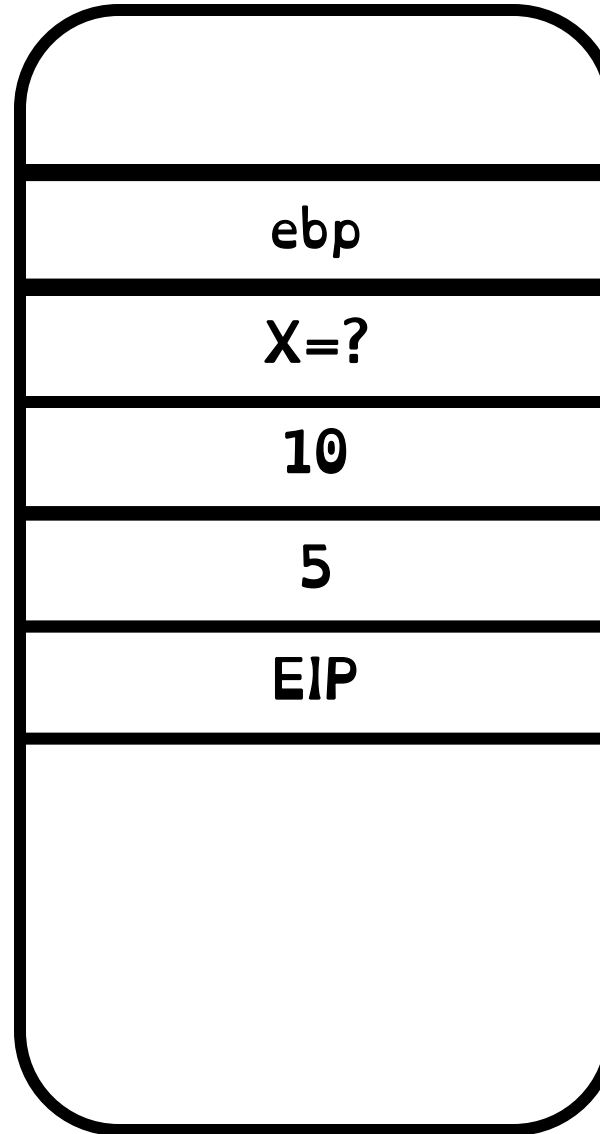
Load Function  
Parameters On Stack  
(reverse order)

# The Call Stack (Review)

---

```
void foo() {  
    int x = add(5,10);  
}
```

```
foo:  
    pushl    %ebp  
    movl    %esp, %ebp  
    subl    $4, %esp  
    pushl    $10  
    pushl    $5  
    call   bar
```



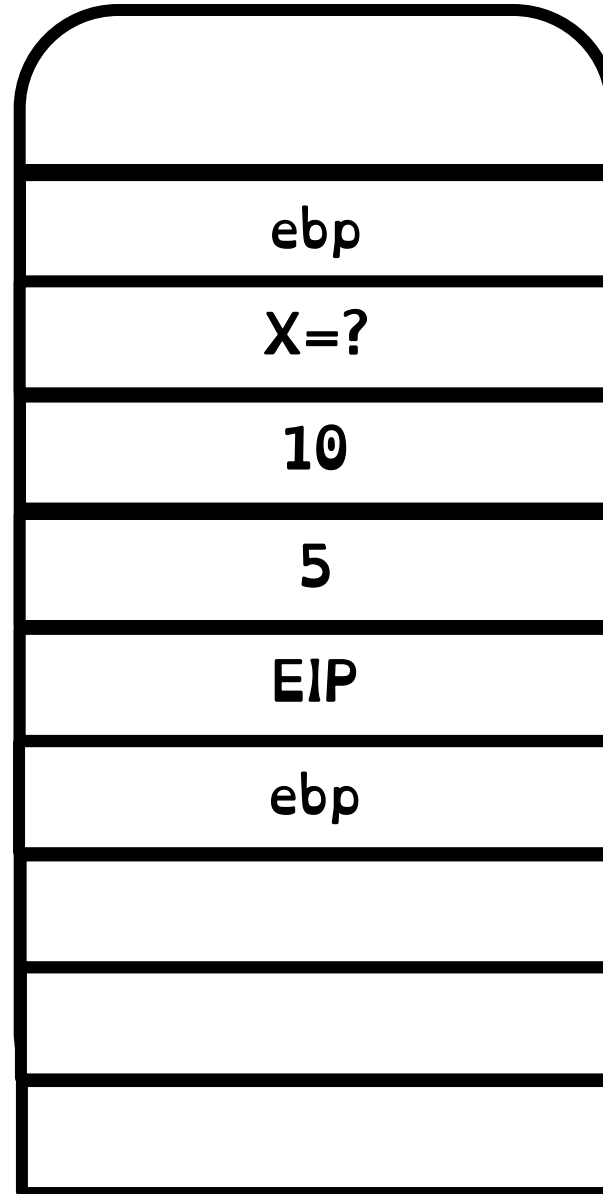
Call instruction pushes  
EIP to stack and  
jumps to bar location

# The Call Stack (Review)

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

add:

```
pushl    %ebp  
movl    %esp, %ebp  
subl    $16, %esp
```



1) Save frame pointer  
and set to stack  
pointer

Stack Pointer (esp)

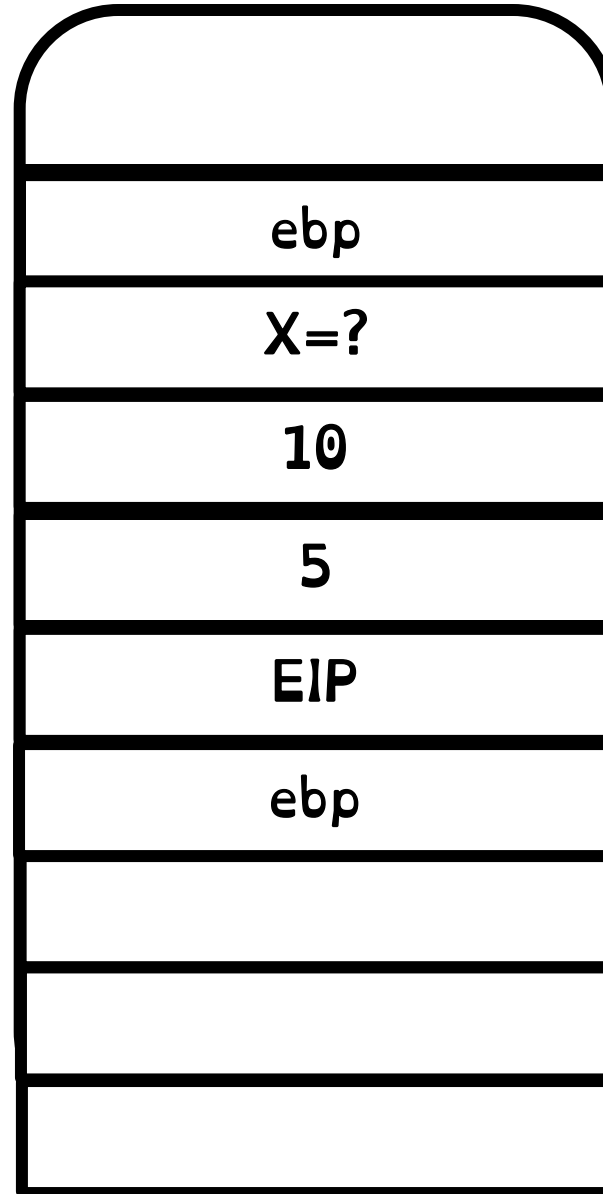
Stack Pointer (esp)

# The Call Stack (Review)

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

add:

```
pushl    %ebp  
movl    %esp, %ebp  
subl    $16, %esp  
movl    8(%ebp), %edx  
movl    12(%ebp), %eax  
addl    %edx, %eax
```



12 (%ebp)

8(%ebp)

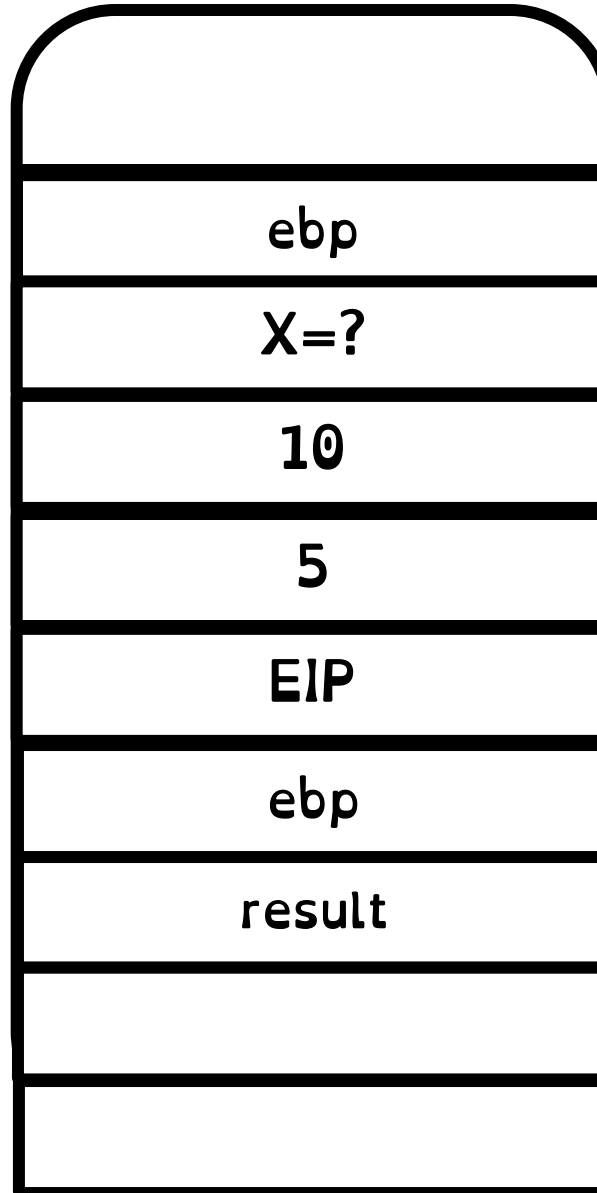
Stack Pointer (esp)

# The Call Stack (Review)

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

add:

```
pushl    %ebp  
movl    %esp, %ebp  
subl    $16, %esp  
movl    8(%ebp), %edx  
movl    12(%ebp), %eax  
addl    %edx, %eax  
movl    %eax, -4(%ebp)
```



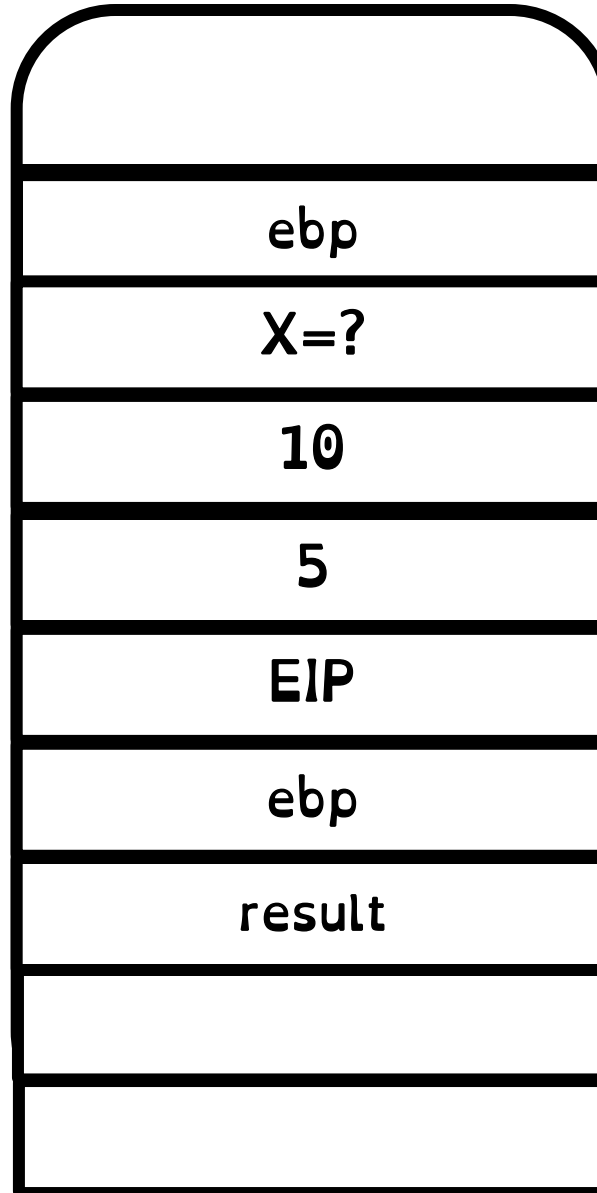
Local Variables are stored in the stack frame

# The Call Stack (Review)

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

add:

```
pushl    %ebp  
movl    %esp, %ebp  
subl    $16, %esp  
movl    8(%ebp), %edx  
movl    12(%ebp), %eax  
addl    %edx, %eax  
movl    %eax, -4(%ebp)  
movl    -4(%ebp), %eax
```



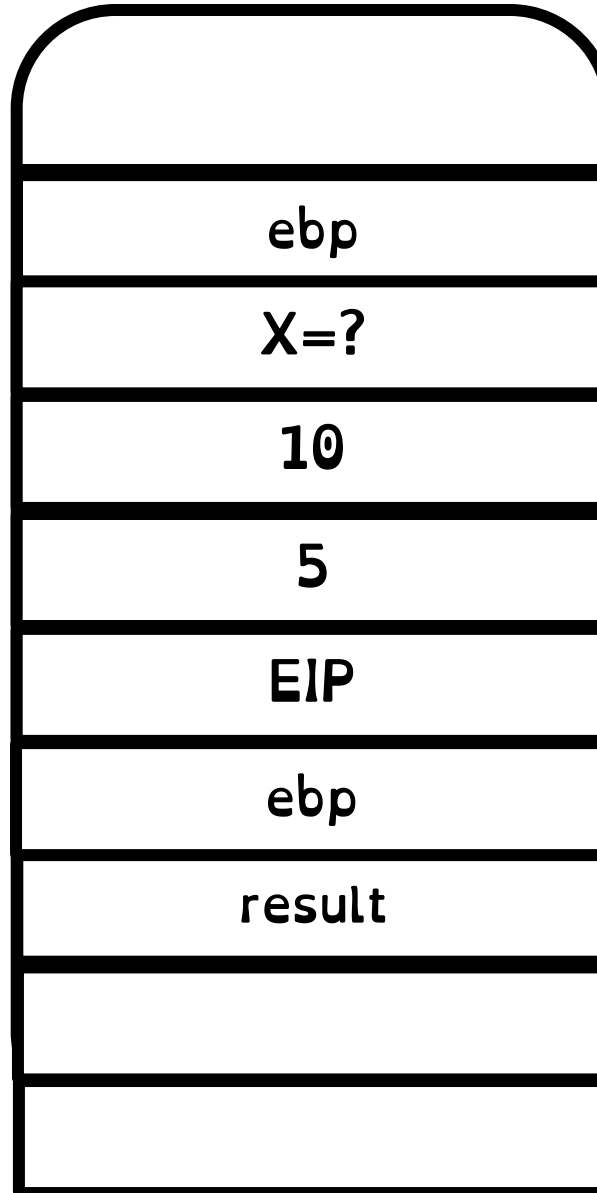
Move return value to  
eax register

# The Call Stack (Review)

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

add:

```
    pushl    %ebp  
    movl    %esp, %ebp  
    subl    $16, %esp  
    movl    8(%ebp), %edx  
    movl    12(%ebp), %eax  
    addl    %edx, %eax  
    movl    %eax, -4(%ebp)  
    movl    -4(%ebp), %eax  
    leave  
    ret
```



Leave instruction restores caller's frame (pops local variables and ebp)

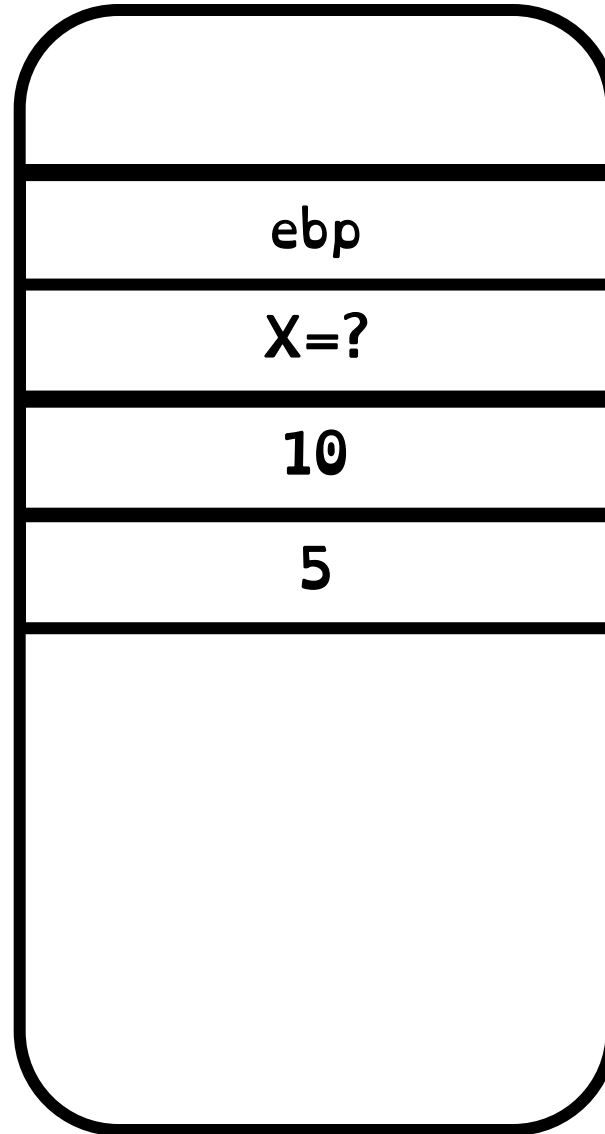
Return instruction pops EIP and restores control to EIP



# The Call Stack (Review)

```
void foo() {  
    int x = add(5,10);  
}
```

```
foo:  
    pushl    %ebp  
    movl    %esp, %ebp  
    pushl    $10  
    pushl    $5  
    call    add  
    addl    $8, %esp
```



Pop function  
parameters

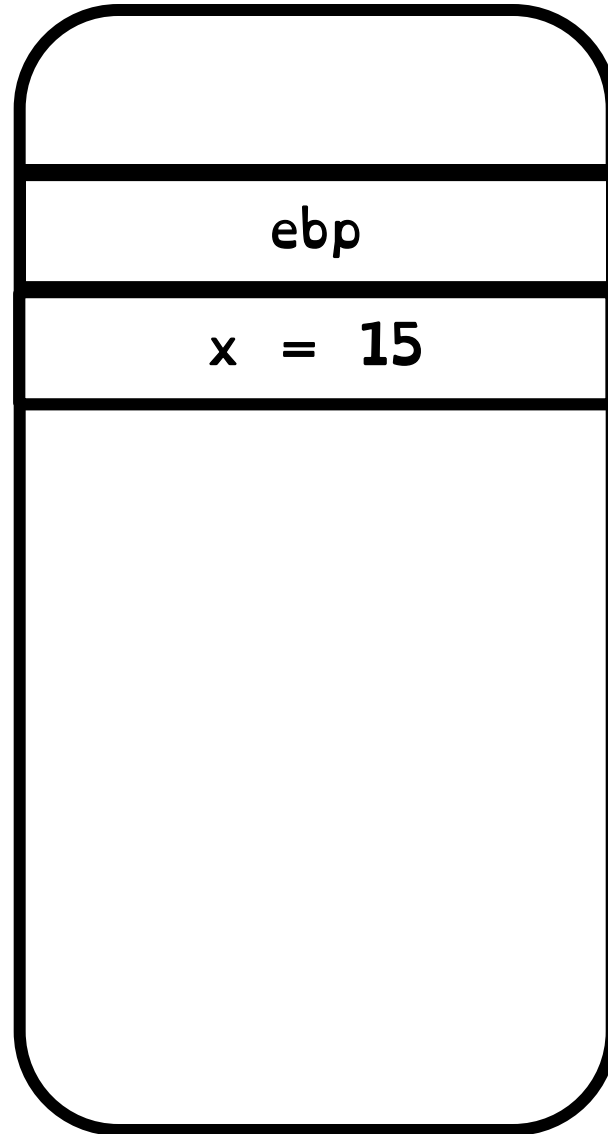
Stack Pointer (esp)

# The Call Stack (Review)

---

```
void foo() {  
    int x = add(5,10);  
}
```

```
foo:  
    pushl    %ebp  
    movl    %esp, %ebp  
    subl    $16, %esp  
    pushl    $10  
    pushl    $5  
    call    add  
    addl    $8, %esp  
    movl    %eax, -4(%ebp)
```



# Really Really Really Big Idea

---

The state of a program's execution is succinctly and completely represented by CPU register state

**EIP, ESP, EBP, Eflags/PSW**

# Goal 2: User -> Kernel Mode

---

# Goal 3: User -> Kernel Mode

---

Key Requirement:

Malicious user program (or IO device) cannot corrupt the kernel.

Interrupts, exceptions or system calls handled similarly  
=> fewer code paths, fewer bugs.

## 1) Limited Entry

Cannot jump to arbitrary code in kernel

## 2) Atomic Switch

Switch from process stack to kernel stack

## 3) Transparent Execution

Restore prior state to continue program

# Interrupt Handling Roadmap

---

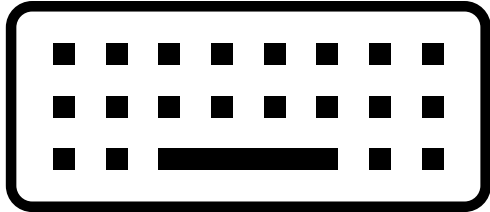
- 1) Processor detects interrupt
- 2) Suspend user program and switch to kernel stack
- 3) Identify interrupt type and invoke appropriate interrupt handler
- 4) Restore user program

# Don't (Hardware) Interrupt Me

---



OS is  
cool

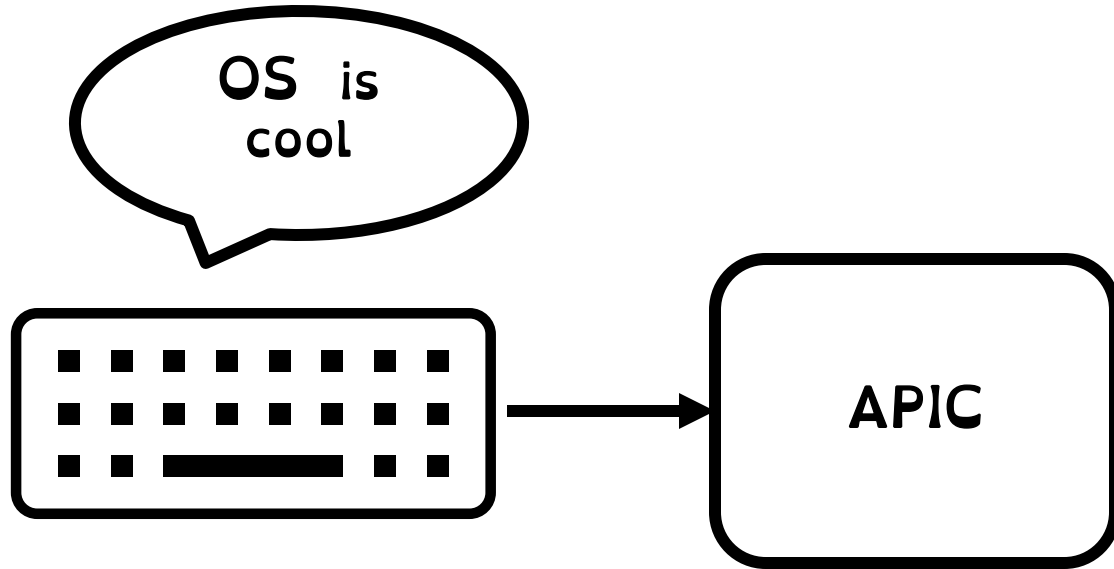


```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

What happens when I type “OS is cool” on my keyboard while the Add program is running?

# 1) Interrupt Detection (Hardware)

---

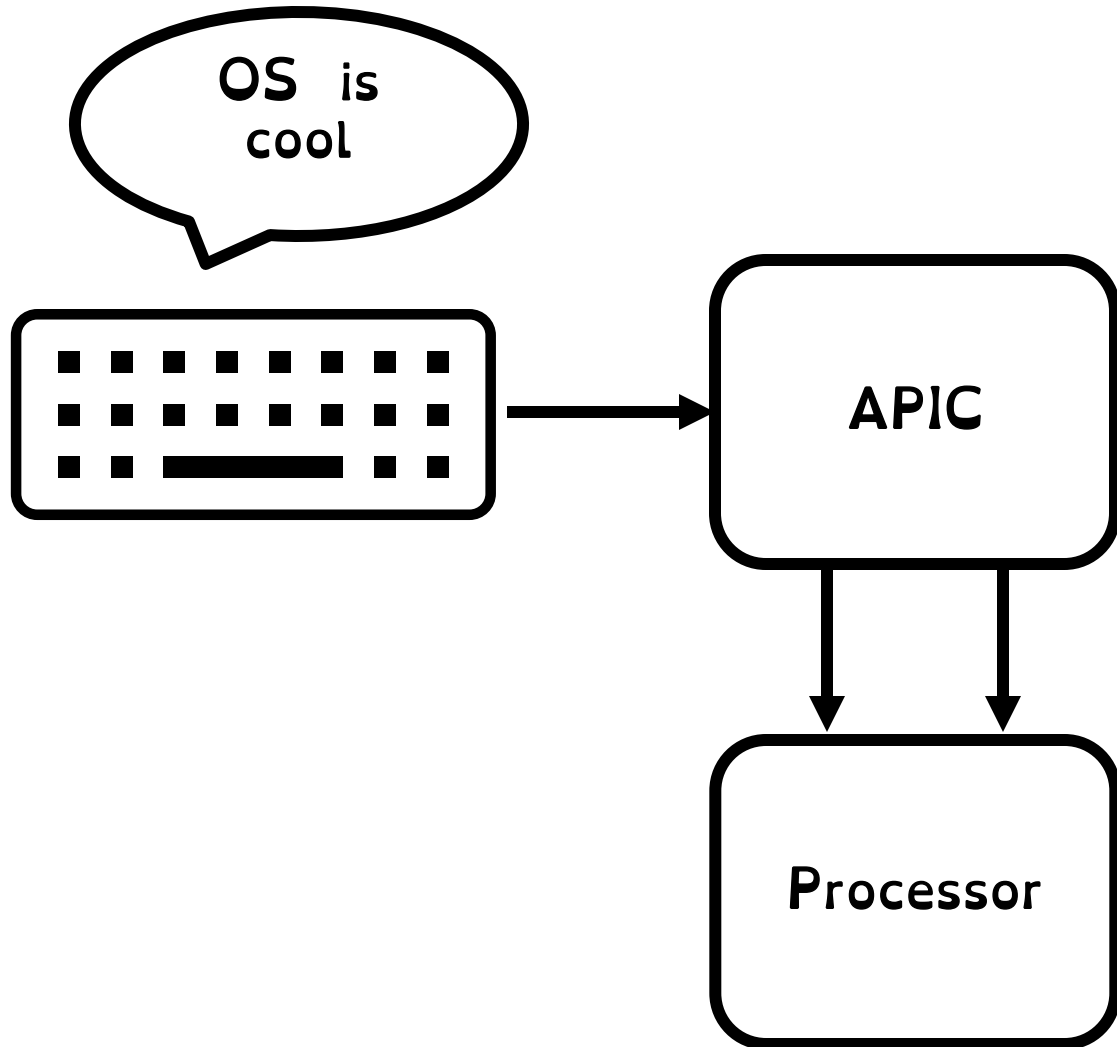


Device sends electric signal over **interrupt request line (IRQ)** to interrupt controller



# 1) Interrupt Detection (Hardware)

---



APIC converts IRQ to a vector number and sends signal to processor

Processor detects interrupt

# IRQs

IRQ	Bus type	Typically used by
00	none	Non-maskable Interrupt (NMI); system timer
01	none	Keyboard port
02	none	Programmable Interrupt Controller (PIC); cascade to IRQ 09
03	8/16-bit	Communications Port 2 (COM2:)
04	8/16-bit	Communications Port 1 (COM1:)
05	8/16-bit	Sound card; printer port (LPT2:)
06	8/16-bit	Floppy disk controller

## 2) Save Recovery State (Hardware)

---

Save register values (**recovery state**) for process recovery

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

Which registers need to be saved by hardware to restore program?

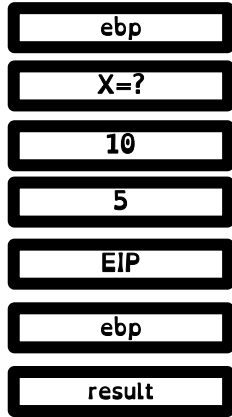
Stack Pointer (esp)

Program Counter (eip)

Execution Flags / Program  
Status Word (Eflags)

# 3) Switching (atomically) to Kernel Stack

```
int add(int a, int b) {  
    int result = a+b;  
    return result;  
}
```

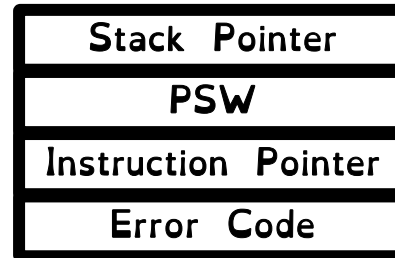


User Stack

Switches stack pointer to base of kernel stack



Pushes recovery state onto the new stack  
(+ optional error code)



Question 1:

Why did hardware need to save registers before switching to kernel stack?

Must overwrite EIP/SP when switching!

Question 2:

Why do we need a separate kernel stack?

Integrity and privacy concerns

# A Tale of Two Stacks

---

```
enum procstate { UNUSED, EMBRYO, SLEEPING, RUNNABLE, RUNNING, ZOMBIE };

// Per-process state
struct proc {
    uint sz;                // Size of process memory (bytes)
    pde_t* pdir;           // Page table
    char *kstack;          // Bottom of kernel stack for this process
    enum procstate state;  // Process state
    int pid;               // Process ID
    struct proc *parent;   // Parent process
    struct trapframe *tf;  // Trap frame for current syscall
    struct context *context; // swtch() here to run process
    void *chan;            // If non-zero, sleeping on chan
    int killed;            // If non-zero, have been killed
    struct file *ofile[NOFILE]; // Open files
    struct inode *cwd;     // Current directory
    char name[16];        // Process name (debugging)
};
```

Xv6 Kernel (proc.h)

# 4) Invoke Interrupt Handler (Hardware)

Interrupt vector is an index into **Interrupt Vector Table** (or interrupt descriptor table).

Index contains appropriate **Interrupt Handler Routine**

Control Unit sets **EIP** to handler

Handler saves all remaining user registers into stack and implements necessary logic (**Transition software**)

32	rtc_handler
33	keyboard_handler
...	floppy_handler
127	disk_handler

IDT Table in Linux

Stack Pointer
PSW
Instruction Pointer
Error Code
Eax
Ebx
...

Kernel Stack

# 5) Return to Program

---

Pop all user registers from kernel stack (restore register state)

Invoke iret instruction to pop saved EIP, EFLAGS, and SP registers from kernel's exception stack to relevant registers

Stack Pointer
PSW
Instruction Pointer
Error Code
Eax
Ebx
...

Kernel Stack

Return to user mode

ebp
X=?
10
5
EIP
ebp
result

User Stack

# Concurrent Interrupts

---

What happens if an interrupt happens while processing an interrupt?

Hardware provides instruction to temporarily defer delivery of interrupt (**disable interrupt**), and re-enable them when safe (**enable interrupt**)

Interrupts are disabled when an interrupt handler is running

Periods during which interrupts are disabled should be very short!



# Interrupt Summary

---

- 1) Device sends signal to APIC
- 2) Processor detects interrupt
- 3) Save Recovery State and switch to Kernel Stack
- 4) Jump to interrupt handler table at appropriate vector. Invoke interrupt handler
- 5) Restore user program

# What about syscalls?

---

System calls are user functions that request services from the OS. Described as function call, with a name, parameters and return value.

Good news!

Syscalls are handled (almost) identically to interrupts.

# What about syscalls?

---

32	rtc_handler
33	keyboard_handler
...	floppy_handler
127	disk_handler
128	syscall_handler

Syscalls issue a “trap” instruction  
(int 0x80)

Generated interrupt will trigger  
exception vector **128!**

How does handler know which syscall to execute?

System Call number fed in to %eax register.  
System call number entry into *system call dispatch table*,

What about parameters and return values?  
Propagated through registers.

**Warning:** Parameters must be carefully checked.

# What about syscalls?

---

Four differences:

- 1) Extra-layer of indirection (system call table)
- 2) Leverage registers for parameters/values
- 3) When executing `iret`, increment `EIP` by one to go to next instruction
- 4) Usually, interrupts not disabled

# What about exceptions?

It's the same!

torvalds / linux Public

Notifications Fork 44.3k Star 137k

<> Code Pull requests 313 Actions Projects Security Insights

master linux / arch / x86 / include / asm / trapnr.h Go to file

joergroedel x86/boot/compressed/64: Add stage1 #VC handler ... Latest commit 29dcc60 on Sep 7, 2020 History

1 contributor

32 lines (29 sloc) | 1.29 KB Raw Blame

```
1  /* SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-2.0 */
2  #ifndef _ASM_X86_TRAPNR_H
3  #define _ASM_X86_TRAPNR_H
4
5  /* Interrupts/Exceptions */
6
7  #define X86_TRAP_DE      0  /* Divide-by-zero */
8  #define X86_TRAP_DB      1  /* Debug */
9  #define X86_TRAP_NMI     2  /* Non-maskable Interrupt */
10 #define X86_TRAP_BP      3  /* Breakpoint */
11 #define X86_TRAP_OF      4  /* Overflow */
12 #define X86_TRAP_BR      5  /* Bound Range Exceeded */
13 #define X86_TRAP_UD      6  /* Invalid Opcode */
14 #define X86_TRAP_NM      7  /* Device Not Available */
15 #define X86_TRAP_DF      8  /* Double Fault */
16 #define X86_TRAP_OLD_MF  9  /* Coprocessor Segment Overrun */
17 #define X86_TRAP_TS     10  /* Invalid TSS */
18 #define X86_TRAP_NP     11  /* Segment Not Present */
19 #define X86_TRAP_SS     12  /* Stack Segment Fault */
20 #define X86_TRAP_GP     13  /* General Protection Fault */
21 #define X86_TRAP_PF     14  /* Page Fault */
```

# The magic of the IVT

---

Single, well-defined entry point in the kernel helps with security

Browse the source code of `linux/arch/x86/include/asm/irq_vectors.h`

```
1  /* SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-2.0 */
2  #ifndef _ASM_X86_IRQ_VECTORS_H
3  #define _ASM_X86_IRQ_VECTORS_H
4
5  #include <linux/threads.h>
6  /*
7   * Linux IRQ vector layout.
8   *
9   * There are 256 IDT entries (per CPU - each entry is 8 bytes) which can
10  * be defined by Linux. They are used as a jump table by the CPU when a
11  * given vector is triggered - by a CPU-external, CPU-internal or
12  * software-triggered event.
13  *
14  * Linux sets the kernel code address each entry jumps to early during
15  * bootup, and never changes them. This is the general layout of the
16  * IDT entries:
17  *
18  * Vectors  0 ... 31 : system traps and exceptions - hardcoded events
19  * Vectors 32 ... 127 : device interrupts
20  * Vector 128      : legacy int80 syscall interface
21  * Vectors 129 ... INVALIDATE_TLB_VECTOR_START-1 except 204 : device interrupts
22  * Vectors INVALIDATE_TLB_VECTOR_START ... 255 : special interrupts
23  *
24  * 64-bit x86 has per CPU IDT tables, 32-bit has one shared IDT table.
25  *
26  * This file enumerates the exact layout of them:
27  */
28
```

# Tension between performance and simplicity

Accessing IDT can be slow if not in cache.  
Syscalls very common, can we make them cheaper?

Allocate a special register (machine specific register)  
to directly store address of system call dispatch table

Store register call in the rax register

But backwards compatibility ...

# Goals for today

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- (Continued) Hardware support for dual mode
- 61C Review: The Stack
- How to switch from user mode to kernel mode and back?

Privileged Instructions, Memory Isolation, Timer Interrupts, Safe Context Switching.

Stack Pointer, Frame Pointer, Program Counter

Switch to specified location in kernel & atomic.

Interrupts, Syscalls, Exceptions handled identically. Use of the interrupt vector table