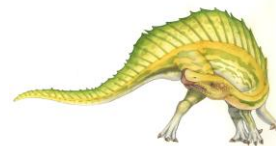




System Calls

- Programming interface to the services provided by the OS
- Typically written in a high-level language (C or C++)
- Mostly accessed by programs via a high-level **Application Programming Interface (API)** rather than direct system call use
- Three most common APIs are Win32 API for Windows, POSIX API for POSIX-based systems (including virtually all versions of UNIX, Linux, and Mac OS X), and Java API for the Java virtual machine (JVM)

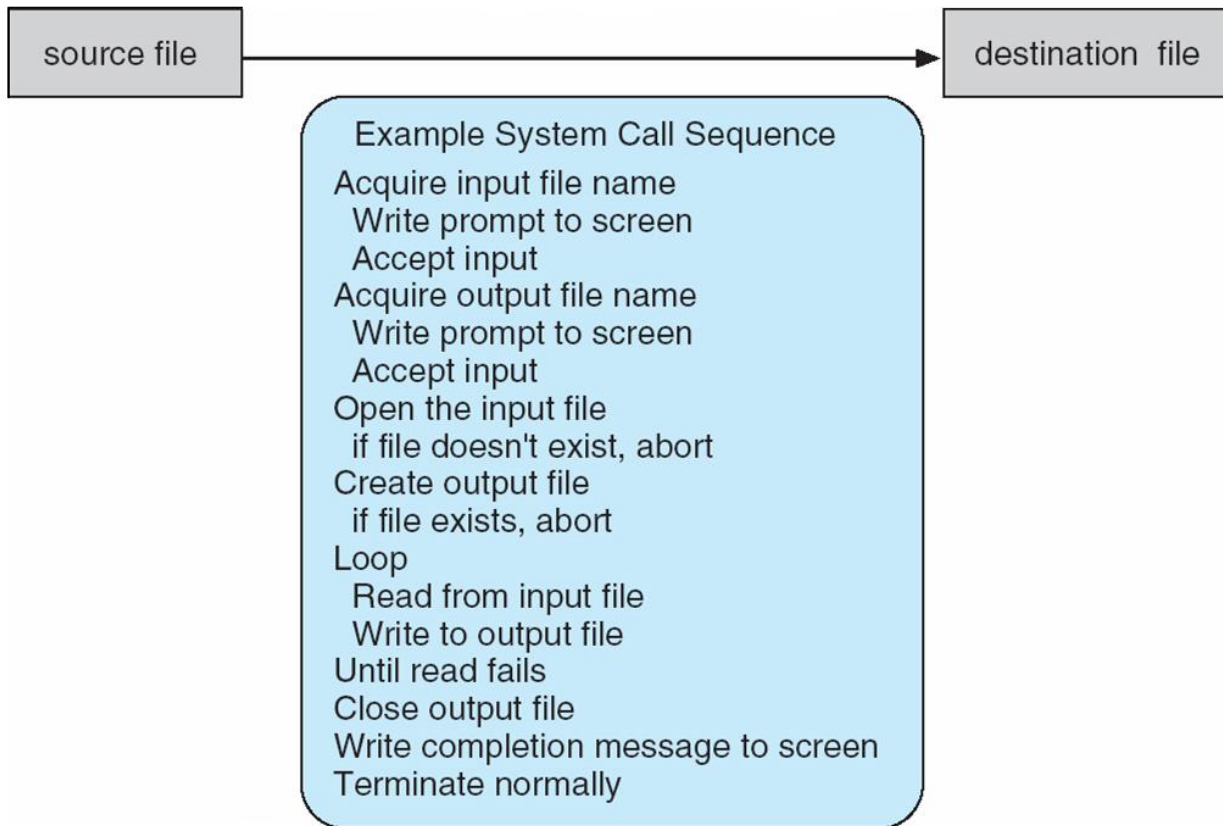
Note that the system-call names used throughout this text are generic





Example of System Calls

- System call sequence to copy the contents of one file to another file





Example of Standard API

EXAMPLE OF STANDARD API

As an example of a standard API, consider the `read()` function that is available in UNIX and Linux systems. The API for this function is obtained from the `man` page by invoking the command

```
man read
```

on the command line. A description of this API appears below:

```
#include <unistd.h>

ssize_t  read(int fd, void *buf, size_t count)
```

return value	function name	parameters
--------------	---------------	------------

A program that uses the `read()` function must include the `unistd.h` header file, as this file defines the `ssize_t` and `size_t` data types (among other things). The parameters passed to `read()` are as follows:

- `int fd`—the file descriptor to be read
- `void *buf`—a buffer where the data will be read into
- `size_t count`—the maximum number of bytes to be read into the buffer

On a successful read, the number of bytes read is returned. A return value of 0 indicates end of file. If an error occurs, `read()` returns `-1`.





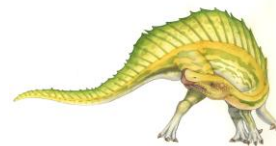
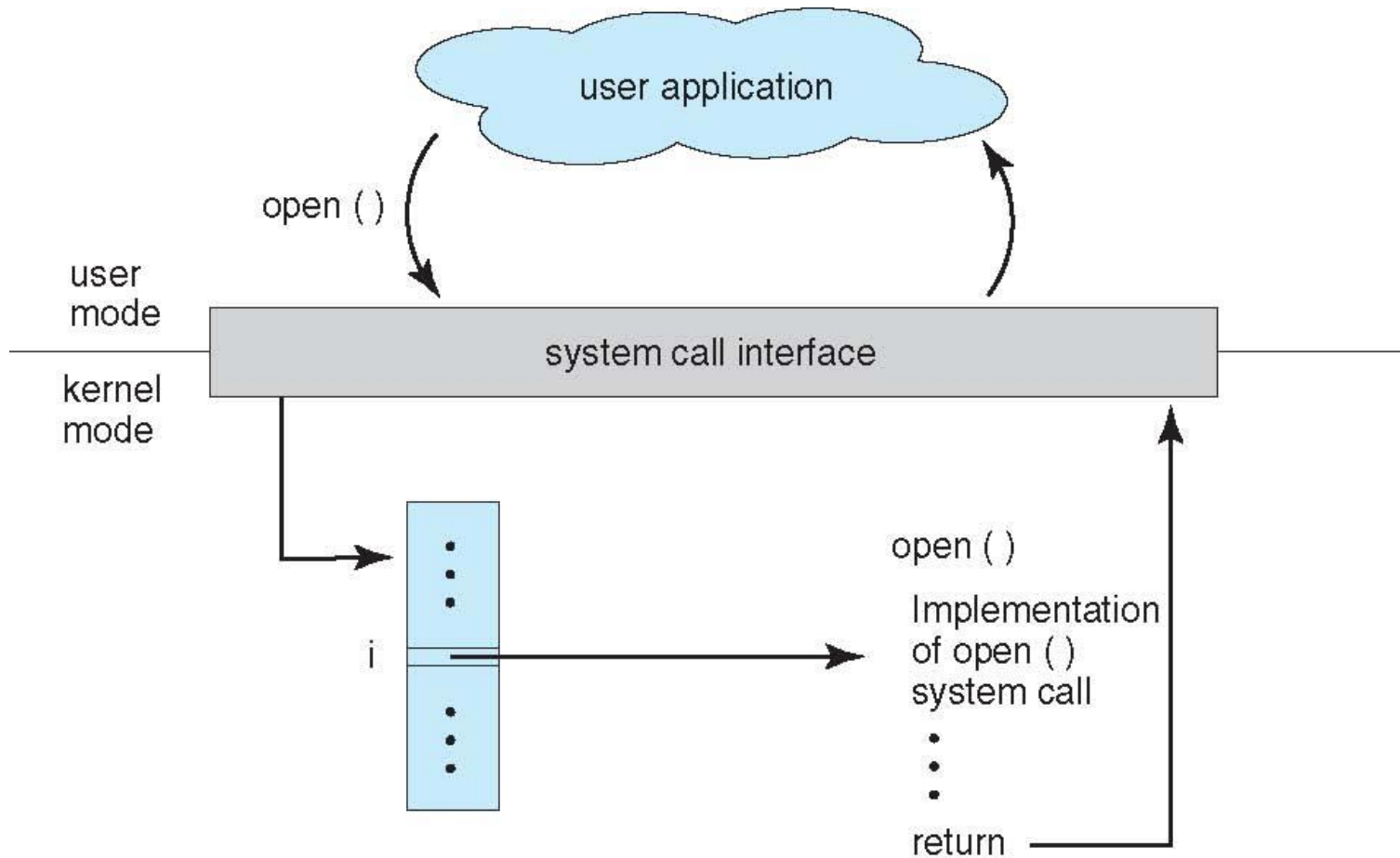
System Call Implementation

- Typically, a number associated with each system call
 - **System-call interface** maintains a table indexed according to these numbers
- The system call interface invokes the intended system call in OS kernel and returns status of the system call and any return values
- The caller need know nothing about how the system call is implemented
 - Just needs to obey API and understand what OS will do as a result call
 - Most details of OS interface hidden from programmer by API
 - ▶ Managed by run-time support library (set of functions built into libraries included with compiler)





API – System Call – OS Relationship





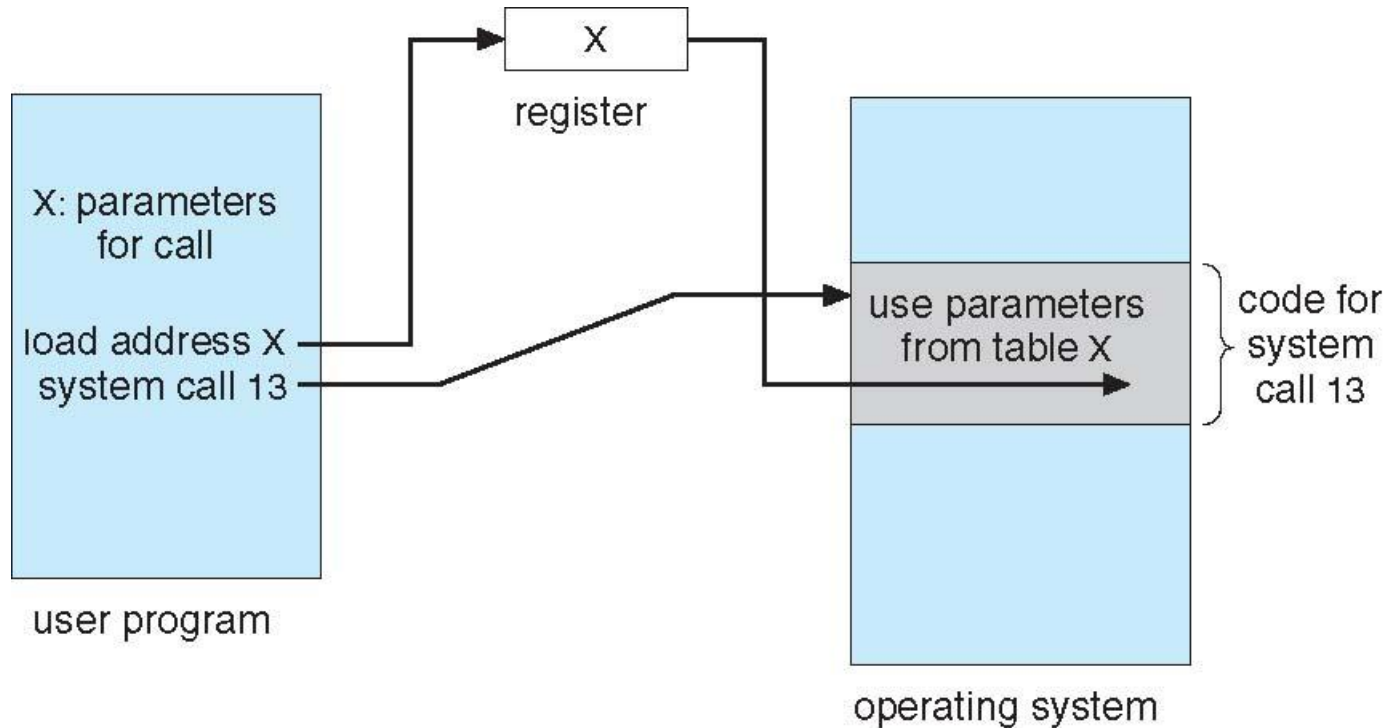
System Call Parameter Passing

- Often, more information is required than simply identity of desired system call
 - Exact type and amount of information vary according to OS and call
- Three general methods used to pass parameters to the OS
 - Simplest: pass the parameters in registers
 - ▶ In some cases, may be more parameters than registers
 - Parameters stored in a block, or table, in memory, and address of block passed as a parameter in a register
 - ▶ This approach taken by Linux and Solaris
 - Parameters placed, or **pushed**, onto the **stack** by the program and **popped** off the stack by the operating system
 - Block and stack methods do not limit the number or length of parameters being passed





Parameter Passing via Table





Types of System Calls

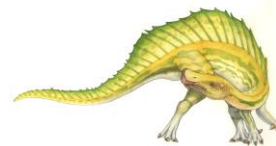
- Process control
 - create process, terminate process
 - end, abort
 - load, execute
 - get process attributes, set process attributes
 - wait for time
 - wait event, signal event
 - allocate and free memory
 - Dump memory if error
 - **Debugger** for determining **bugs, single step** execution
 - **Locks** for managing access to shared data between processes





Types of System Calls

- File management
 - create file, delete file
 - open, close file
 - read, write, reposition
 - get and set file attributes
- Device management
 - request device, release device
 - read, write, reposition
 - get device attributes, set device attributes
 - logically attach or detach devices





Types of System Calls (Cont.)

- Information maintenance
 - get time or date, set time or date
 - get system data, set system data
 - get and set process, file, or device attributes
- Communications
 - create, delete communication connection
 - send, receive messages if **message passing model** to **host name** or **process name**
 - ▶ From **client** to **server**
 - **Shared-memory model** create and gain access to memory regions
 - transfer status information
 - attach and detach remote devices





Types of System Calls (Cont.)

- Protection
 - Control access to resources
 - Get and set permissions
 - Allow and deny user access





Examples of Windows and Unix System Calls

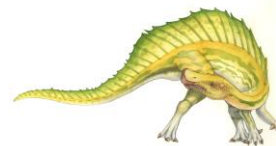
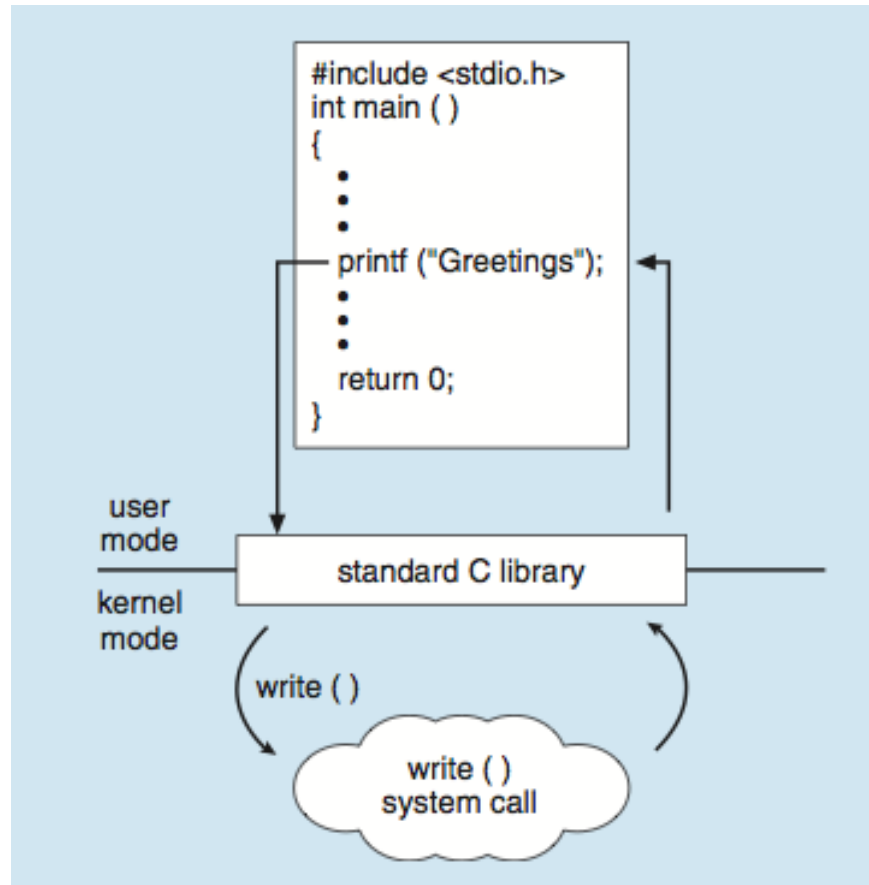
	Windows	Unix
Process Control	CreateProcess() ExitProcess() WaitForSingleObject()	fork() exit() wait()
File Manipulation	CreateFile() ReadFile() WriteFile() CloseHandle()	open() read() write() close()
Device Manipulation	SetConsoleMode() ReadConsole() WriteConsole()	ioctl() read() write()
Information Maintenance	GetCurrentProcessID() SetTimer() Sleep()	getpid() alarm() sleep()
Communication	CreatePipe() CreateFileMapping() MapViewOfFile()	pipe() shmget() mmap()
Protection	SetFileSecurity() InitializeSecurityDescriptor() SetSecurityDescriptorGroup()	chmod() umask() chown()





Standard C Library Example

- C program invoking printf() library call, which calls write() system call





System Programs

- System programs provide a convenient environment for program development and execution. They can be divided into:
 - File manipulation
 - Status information sometimes stored in a File modification
 - Programming language support
 - Program loading and execution
 - Communications
 - Background services
 - Application programs
- Most users' view of the operation system is defined by system programs, not the actual system calls





System Programs

- Provide a convenient environment for program development and execution
 - Some of them are simply user interfaces to system calls; others are considerably more complex
- **File management** - Create, delete, copy, rename, print, dump, list, and generally manipulate files and directories
- **Status information**
 - Some ask the system for info - date, time, amount of available memory, disk space, number of users
 - Others provide detailed performance, logging, and debugging information
 - Typically, these programs format and print the output to the terminal or other output devices
 - Some systems implement a **registry** - used to store and retrieve configuration information





System Programs (Cont.)

- **File modification**
 - Text editors to create and modify files
 - Special commands to search contents of files or perform transformations of the text
- **Programming-language support** - Compilers, assemblers, debuggers and interpreters sometimes provided
- **Program loading and execution**- Absolute loaders, relocatable loaders, linkage editors, and overlay-loaders, debugging systems for higher-level and machine language
- **Communications** - Provide the mechanism for creating virtual connections among processes, users, and computer systems
 - Allow users to send messages to one another's screens, browse web pages, send electronic-mail messages, log in remotely, transfer files from one machine to another





System Programs (Cont.)

■ Background Services

- Launch at boot time
 - ▶ Some for system startup, then terminate
 - ▶ Some from system boot to shutdown
- Provide facilities like disk checking, process scheduling, error logging, printing
- Run in user context not kernel context
- Known as **services**, **subsystems**, **daemons**

■ Application programs

- Don't pertain to system
- Run by users
- Not typically considered part of OS
- Launched by command line, mouse click, finger poke

