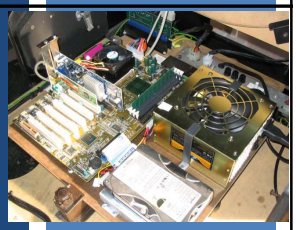
TCSS 422: OPERATING SYSTEMS



Concurrency Intro, Linux Thread API

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April 21, 2020

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School of Engineering and Technology, University of Washington - Tacoma

OBJECTIVES – 4/21

- Questions from 4/16
- C Tutorial
- Active Reading Quiz – Ch. 7
- Assignment 0
- Assignment 1
- Chapter 26: Concurrency: An Introduction
  - Introduction
  - Race condition
  - Critical section
- Chapter 27: Linux Thread API
  - pthread_create/_join
  - pthread_mutex_lock/_unlock/_trylock/_timelock
  - pthread_cond_wait/_signal/_broadcast

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MATERIAL / PACE

- 4/16 feedback survey for Lecture 6 – not properly posted on CANVAS
- Survey has been reposted and is available
- Please classify your perspective on material covered in today's class (? respondents):
- 1-mostly review, 5-equal new/review, 10-mostly new
- **Average – ? (?↓ *from 7.6*)**
- Please rate the pace of today's class:
- 1-slow, 5-just right, 10-fast
- **Average – ? (?↑ from 5.45)**

FEEDBACK FROM 4/16

- ***From 4/14: When does software benefit from turnaround time more than response time and vice versa?***
- **Compute-bound batch jobs** benefit from CPU schedulers that improve ***turnaround time***
- Examples:
  - Genomic sequencing compute jobs (i.e. DNA analysis/alignment)
  - Earth science models (e.g. weather, climate, hydrology, erosion)
  - Forecast models (e.g. stock market, economics)
- These jobs require LONG uninterrupted access to the CPU
- **Event processing** for user interfaces benefits from CPU scheduler that improve ***response time***
- These jobs involve frequent short bursts of computation

FEEDBACK - 2

- ***What are the main advantages to using a multilevel queue for scheduling?***
- Ch. 7 schedulers require knowing job runtime in advance
- In practice, we don't know ***how long*** jobs require to execute
  - *Many unknowns: job resource requirements, state of the system, etc.*
- *UW Tacoma MSCSS Student Sonia Xu*: working on MS thesis to predict runtime of bioinformatics jobs on different cloud VMs
- Multi-level feedback queue (MLFQ) adjusts scheduling of jobs dynamically based on job behavior
- A job can actually change its behavior from batch to event-based and back and MLFQ adapts the scheduling!
- CPU schedulers must be adaptive unless having a ***crystal ball***

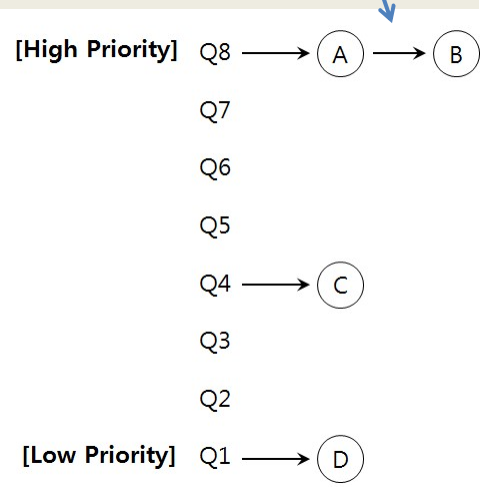
FEEDBACK - 3

- From email: about the 'Multilevel Feedback Queue Scheduler', I feel I don't fully understand how this algorithm works

MLFQ

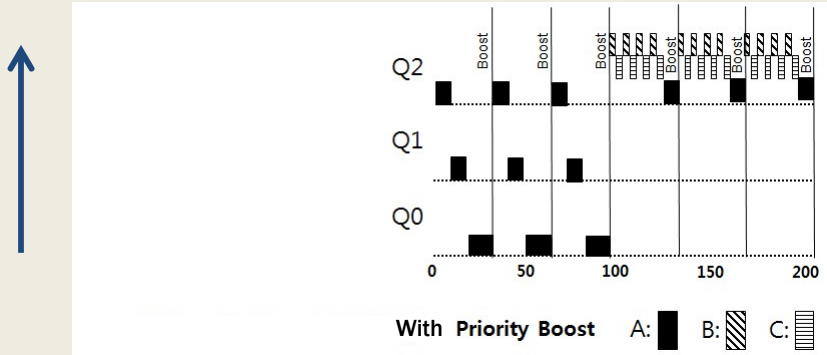
Round-Robin within a Queue

- Multiple job queues
- Adjust job priority based on observed behavior
- Interactive Jobs
  - Frequent I/O → keep priority high
  - Interactive jobs require fast response time (GUI/UI)
- Batch Jobs
  - Require long periods of CPU utilization
  - Keep priority low



MLFQ - PRIORITY BOOST

- With priority boost
  - Prevents starvation



Jackson deploys a 3-level MLFQ scheduler. The time slice is 1 for high priority jobs, 2 for medium priority, and 4 for low priority. This MLFQ scheduler performs a Priority Boost every 6 timer units. When the priority boost fires, the current job is preempted, and the next scheduled job is run in round-robin order.

Job	Arrival Time	Job Length
A	T=0	4
B	T=0	16
C	T=0	8

(11 points) Show a scheduling graph for the MLFQ scheduler for the jobs above.
Draw vertical lines for key events and be sure to label the X-axis times as in the example.
Please draw clearly. An unreadable graph will loose points.

```
HIGH |
     |
     |
MED  |
     |
     |
LOW  |_____________________________________________________
     0
```

CHAPTER 9 QUESTIONS ?

- **Chapter 9: Proportional Share Schedulers**
  - Lottery scheduler
  - Ticket mechanisms
  - Stride scheduler
  - Linux Completely Fair Scheduler

ASSIGNMENTS: REVISED SUBMISSION TIME

- TCSS 422 B Sp 2020
- Now due at 11:59 pm Anywhere On Earth (AOE) TIME ZONE
- Pacific Daylight Time minus 5 hours
- Last time zone before international date line
- 11:59 pm = ~4:59 am PDT

AOE Time

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CHAPTER 26 - CONCURRENCY: AN INTRODUCTION

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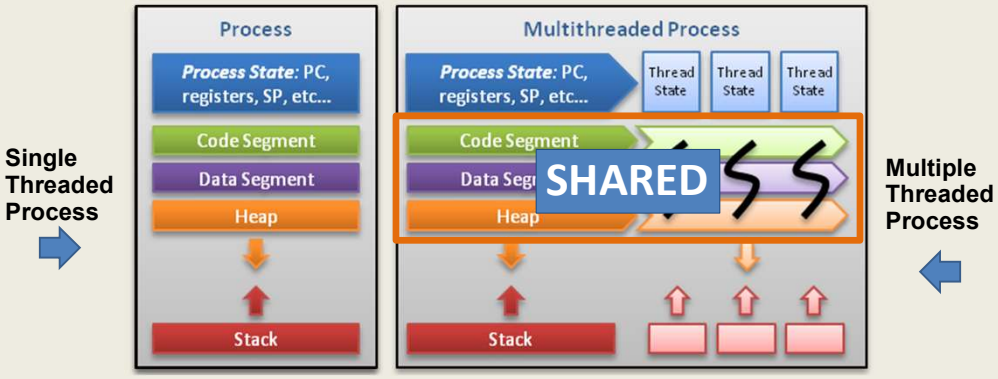
THREADS



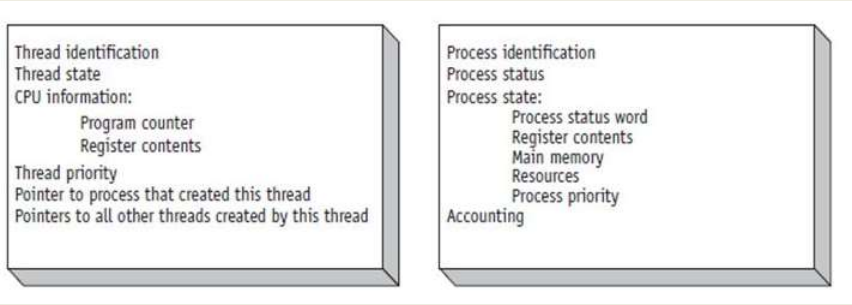
©Alfred Park, http://randu.org/tutorials/threads

THREADS - 2

- Enables a single process (program) to have multiple "workers"
  - This is parallel programming…
- Supports independent path(s) of execution within a program *with shared memory …*
- Each thread has its own Thread Control Block (TCB)
  - PC, registers, SP, and stack
- Threads share code segment, memory, and heap are shared
- ***What is an embarrassingly parallel program?***

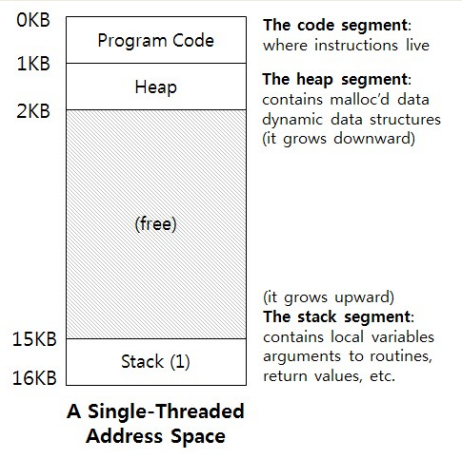
PROCESS AND THREAD METADATA

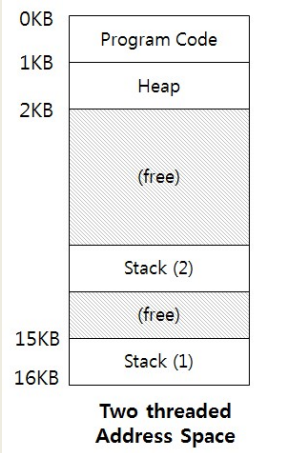
- Thread Control Block vs. Process Control Block



SHARED ADDRESS SPACE

- Every thread has it's own stack / PC





THREAD CREATION EXAMPLE

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <assert.h>
#include <pthread.h>

void *mythread(void *arg) {
    printf("%s\n", (char *) arg);
    return NULL;
}

int
main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
    pthread_t p1, p2;
    int rc;
    printf("main: begin\n");
    rc = pthread_create(&p1, NULL, mythread, "A"); assert(rc == 0);
    rc = pthread_create(&p2, NULL, mythread, "B"); assert(rc == 0);
    // join waits for the threads to finish
    rc = pthread_join(p1, NULL); assert(rc == 0);
    rc = pthread_join(p2, NULL); assert(rc == 0);
    printf("main: end\n");
    return 0;
}
```

POSSIBLE ORDERINGS OF EVENTS

int main()	Thread 1	Thread 2
Starts running		
Prints 'main: begin'		
Creates Thread 1		
Creates Thread 2		
Waits for T1		
	Runs	
	Prints 'A'	
	Returns	
Waits for T2		
		Runs
		Prints 'B'
		Returns
Prints 'main: end'		

POSSIBLE ORDERINGS OF EVENTS - 2

int main()	Thread 1	Thread 2
Starts running		
Prints 'main: begin'		
Creates Thread 1		
	Runs	
	Prints 'A'	
	Returns	
Creates Thread 2		
		Runs
		Prints 'B'
		Returns
Waits for T1	*Returns immediately*	
Waits for T2		*Returns immediately*
Prints 'main: end'		

POSSIBLE ORDERINGS OF EVENTS - 3

Int main()	Thread 1	Thread 2
Starts running		
Prints 'main: begin'		
Creates Thread 1		
Creates Thread 2		
Waits for T		
	Runs	
	Prints 'A'	
	Returns	
Waits for T2		*Immediately returns*
Prints 'main: end'		

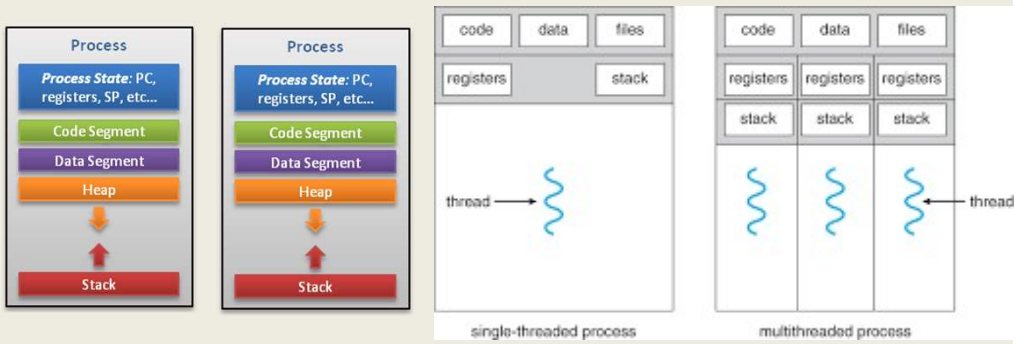
What if execution order of events in the program matters?

COUNTER EXAMPLE

- Counter example
- A + B : ordering
- Counter: incrementing global variable by two threads
- ***Is the counter example embarrassingly parallel?***
- ***What does the parallel counter program require?***

PROCESSES VS. THREADS

- What's the difference between forks and threads?
  - Forks: duplicate a process
  - Think of ***CLONING*** - There will be two identical processes at the end
  - Threads: no duplicate of code/heap, lightweight execution threads



RACE CONDITION

- What is happening with our counter?
  - When counter=50, consider code: counter = counter + 1
  - If synchronized, counter will = 52

OS	Thread1	Thread2	PC (after instruction)	%eax	counter
	before critical section		100	0	50
	mov 0x8049a1c, %eax		105	50	50
	add $0x1, %eax		108	51	50
interrupt					
save T1's state					
restore T2's state			100	0	50
		mov 0x8049a1c, %eax	105	50	50
		add $0x1, %eax	108	51	50
		mov %eax, 0x8049a1c	113	51	51
interrupt					
save T2's state					
restore T1's state			108	51	50
	mov %eax, 0x8049a1c		113	51	**51**

CRITICAL SECTION

- Code that accesses a shared variable must not be ***concurrently*** executed by more than one thread
- Multiple *active* threads inside a ***critical section*** produce a ***race condition***.
- ***Atomic execution*** (*all code executed as a unit*) must be ensured in ***critical*** sections
  - These sections must be ***mutually exclusive***

LOCKS

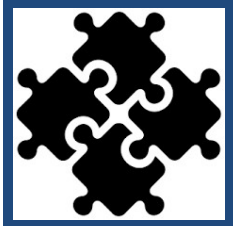
- To demonstrate how critical section(s) can be executed "atomically-*as a unit*" Chapter 27 & beyond introduce locks

```
lock_t mutex;
. . .
lock(&mutex);
balance = balance + 1;
unlock(&mutex);
```

Critical section

- Counter example revisited

CHAPTER 27 - LINUX THREAD API



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L7.31

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L7.32

THREAD CREATION

- pthread_create

```
#include <pthread.h>

int
pthread_create(      pthread_t*       thread,
               const pthread_attr_t*  attr,
                     void*            (*start_routine)(void*),
                     void*            arg);
```

- thread: thread struct
- attr: stack size, scheduling priority… (*optional*)
- start_routine: function pointer to thread routine
- arg: argument to pass to thread routine (*optional*)

PTHREAD_CREATE – PASS ANY DATA

```
#include <pthread.h>

typedef struct __myarg_t {
        int a;
        int b;
} myarg_t;

void *mythread(void *arg) {
        myarg_t *m = (myarg_t *) arg;
        printf("%d %d\n", m->a, m->b);
        return NULL;
}

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
        pthread_t p;
        int rc;

        myarg_t args;
        args.a = 10;
        args.b = 20;
        rc = pthread_create(&p, NULL, mythread, &args);
        …
}
```

PASSING A SINGLE VALUE

Using this approach on your Ubuntu VM, How large (in bytes) can the primitive data type be?

How large (in bytes) can the primitive data type be on a 32-bit operating system?

```
9       int rc, m;
10      pthread_create(&p, NULL, mythread, (void *) 100);
11      pthread_join(p, (void **) &m);
12      printf("returned %d\n", m);
13      return 0;
14  }
```


WAITING FOR THREADS TO FINISH

```
int pthread_join(pthread_t thread, void **value_ptr);
```

- thread: which thread?
- value_ptr: pointer to return value
  type is dynamic / agnostic
- Returned values *must* be on the heap
- Thread stacks destroyed upon thread termination (join)
- Pointers to thread stack memory addresses are invalid
  - May appear as gibberish or lead to crash (seg fault)
- Not all threads join – ***What would be Examples ??***

What will this code do?

```
struct myarg {
  int a;
  int b;
};

void *worker(void *arg)
{
  struct myarg *input = (struct myarg *) arg;
  printf("a=%d b=%d\n",input->a, input->b);
  struct myarg output;
  output.a = 1;
  output.b = 2;
  return (void *) &output;
}

int main (int argc, char * argv[])
{
  pthread_t p1;
  struct myarg args;
  struct myarg *ret_args;
  args.a = 10;
  args.b = 20;
  pthread_
  pthread_
  printf("
  return 0;
}
```

Data on thread stack

```
$ ./pthread_struct
a=10 b=20
Segmentation fault (core dumped)
```

How can this code be fixed?

How about this code?

```
struct myarg {
  int a;
  int b;
};

void *worker(void *arg)
{
  struct myarg *input = (struct myarg *) arg;
  printf("a=%d b=%d\n",input->a, input->b);
  input->a = 1;
  input->b = 2;
  return (void *) &input;
}

int main (int argc, char * argv[])
{
  pthread_t p1;
  struct myarg args;
  struct myarg *ret_args;
  args.a = 10;
  args.b = 20;
  pthread_create(&p1, NULL, worker, &args);
  pthread_join(p1, (void *)&ret_args);
  printf("returned %d %d\n", ret_args->a, ret_args->b);
  return 0;
}
```

```
$ ./pthread_struct
a=10 b=20
returned 1 2
```

ADDING CASTS

- Casting
- Suppresses compiler warnings when passing "typed" data where (void) or (void *) is called for
- Example: uncasted capture in pthread_join

```
pthread_int.c: In function 'main':
pthread_int.c:34:20: warning: passing argument 2 of 'pthread_join'
from incompatible pointer type [-Wincompatible-pointer-types]
   pthread_join(p1, &p1val);
```

- Example: uncasted return

```
In file included from pthread_int.c:3:0:
/usr/include/pthread.h:250:12: note: expected 'void **' but argument
is of type 'int **'
 extern int pthread_join (pthread_t __th, void **__thread_return);
```


ADDING CASTS - 2

- pthread_join

```
int * p1val;
int * p2val;
pthread_join(p1, (void *)&p1val);
pthread_join(p2, (void *)&p2val);
```

- return from thread function

```
int * counterval = malloc(sizeof(int));
*counterval = counter;
return (void *) counterval;
```

TCSS 422 WILL RETURN AT ~2:40PM

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L5.41

LOCKS

- pthread_mutex_t data type
- /usr/include/bits/pthread_types.h

```
// Global Address Space
static volatile int counter = 0;
pthread_mutex_t lock;

void *worker(void *arg)
{
  int i;
  for (i=0;i<10000000;i++)  {
    int rc = pthread_mutex_lock(&lock);
    assert(rc==0);
    counter = counter + 1;
    pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock);
  }
  return NULL;
}
```

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L7.42

LOCKS - 2

- Ensure critical sections are executed atomically-*as a unit*
  - Provides implementation of "***Mutual Exclusion***"
- API

```
int pthread_mutex_lock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);
int pthread_mutex_unlock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);
```

- Example w/o initialization & error checking

```
pthread_mutex_t lock;
pthread_mutex_lock(&lock);
x = x + 1; // or whatever your critical section is
pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock);
```

  - Blocks forever until lock can be obtained
  - Enters critical section once lock is obtained
  - Releases lock

LOCK INITIALIZATION

- Assigning the constant

```
pthread_mutex_t lock = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
```

- API call:

```
int rc = pthread_mutex_init(&lock, NULL);
assert(rc == 0); // always check success!
```

- Initializes mutex with attributes specified by 2nd argument
- If NULL, then default attributes are used
- Upon initialization, the mutex is initialized and unlocked

LOCKS - 3

- Error checking wrapper

```
// Use this to keep your code clean but check for failures
// Only use if exiting program is OK upon failure
void Pthread_mutex_lock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex) {
    int rc = pthread_mutex_lock(mutex);
    assert(rc == 0);
}
```

- What if lock can't be obtained?

```
int pthread_mutex_trylock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex);
int pthread_mutex_timelock(pthread_mutex_t *mutex,
                           struct timespec *abs_timeout);
```

- trylock – returns immediately (fails) if lock is unavailable
- timelock – tries to obtain a lock for a specified duration

CONDITIONS AND SIGNALS

- Condition variables support "signaling" between threads

```
int pthread_cond_wait(pthread_cond_t *cond,
                      pthread_mutex_t *mutex);
int pthread_cond_signal(pthread_cond_t *cond);
```

- `pthread_cont_t` datatype
- pthread_cond_wait()
  - Puts thread to "sleep" (waits) (THREAD is BLOCKED)
  - Threads added to >**FIFO queue**<, lock is released
  - Waits ***(listens)*** for a "signal" (NON-BUSY WAITING, no polling)
  - When signal occurs, interrupt fires, wakes up first thread, (THREAD is RUNNING), lock is provided to thread

CONDITIONS AND SIGNALS - 2

```
int pthread_cond_signal(pthread_cond_t * cond);
int pthread_cond_broadcast(pthread_cond_t * cond);
```

- `pthread_cond_signal()`
  - Called to send a "signal" to wake-up first thread in **FIFO "wait" queue**
  - The goal is to unblock a thread to respond to the signal
- `pthread_cond_broadcast()`
  - Unblocks ***all*** threads in **FIFO "wait" queue**, currently blocked on the specified condition variable
  - Broadcast is used when all threads should wake-up for the signal
- Which thread is unblocked first?
  - Determined by OS scheduler (based on priority)
  - Thread(s) awoken based on placement order in **FIFO wait queue**
  - When awoken threads acquire lock as in `pthread_mutex_lock()`

CONDITIONS AND SIGNALS - 3

- Wait example:

```
pthread_mutex_t lock = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
pthread_cond_t cond = PTHREAD_COND_INITIALIZER;

pthread_mutex_lock(&lock);
while (initialized == 0)
    pthread_cond_wait(&cond, &lock);
// Perform work that requires lock
a = a + b;
pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock);
```

- wait puts thread to sleep, releases lock
- when awoken, lock reacquired (but then released by this code)
- When initialized, another thread signals

```
pthread_mutex_lock(&lock);
initialized = 1;
pthread_cond_signal(&init);
pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock);
```

State variable set, Enables other thread(s) to proceed above.

CONDITION AND SIGNALS - 4

```
pthread_mutex_t lock = PTHREAD_MUTEX_INITIALIZER;
pthread_cond_t cond = PTHREAD_COND_INITIALIZER;

pthread_mutex_lock(&lock);
while (initialized == 0)
    pthread_cond_wait(&cond, &lock);
// Perform work that requires lock
a = a + b;
pthread_mutex_unlock(&lock);
```

- Why do we wait inside a while loop?
- The while ensures upon awakening the condition is rechecked
  - A signal is raised, but the pre-conditions required to proceed may have not been met. **MUST CHECK STATE VARIABLE**
  - Without checking the state variable the thread may proceed to execute when it should not. (e.g. too early)

PTHREADS LIBRARY

- Compilation:
  gcc requires special option to require programs with pthreads:
  - gcc –pthread pthread.c –o pthread
  - Explicitly links library with compiler flag
  - RECOMMEND: using makefile to provide compiler arguments
- List of pthread manpages
  - man –k pthread

SAMPLE MAKEFILE

```
CC=gcc
CFLAGS=-pthread -I. -Wall

binaries=pthread pthread_int pthread_lock_cond pthread_struct

all: $(binaries)

pthread_mult: pthread.c pthread_int.c
    $(CC) $(CFLAGS) $^ -o $@

clean:
    $(RM) -f $(binaries) *.o
```

- Example builds multiple single file programs
  - All target
- pthread_mult
  - Example if multiple source files should produce a single executable
- clean target

QUESTIONS

WILL RETURN IN A FEW MINUTES