Scheduling

What is Scheduling?

– On a multi-programmed system
  • We may have more than one Ready process
– On a batch system
  • We may have many jobs waiting to be run
– On a multi-user system
  • We may have many users concurrently using the system
  • The scheduler decides who to run next.
– The process of choosing is called scheduling.

Is scheduling important?

• It is not in certain scenarios
  – If you have no choice
    • Early systems
      – Usually batching
      – Scheduling algorithm simple
        » Run next on tape or next on punch tape
    – Only one thing to run
      • Simple PCs
        – Only ran a word processor, etc....
      • Simple Embedded Systems
        – TV remote control, washing machine, etc....

Is scheduling important?

• It is in most realistic scenarios
  – Multitasking/Multi-user System
    • Example
      – Email daemon takes 2 seconds to process an email
        » Daemon can also be run on different processors
    – Scenario 1
      – Run daemon, then application
        » System appears really sluggish to the user
    – Scenario 2
      – Run application, then daemon
        » Application appears really responsive, small email delay is unnoticed
• Scheduling decisions can have a dramatic effect on the perceived performance of the system
  – Can also affect correctness of a system with deadlines

Application Behaviour

• Bursts of CPU usage alternate with periods of I/O wait

Application Behaviour

a) CPU-Bound process
  • Spends most of its computing
  • Time to completion largely determined by received CPU time
Application Behaviour

b) I/O-Bound process
- Spend most of its time waiting for I/O to complete
  - Small bursts of CPU to process I/O and request next I/O
- Time to completion largely determined by I/O request time

Observations

- Generally, technology is increasing CPU speed much faster than I/O speed
  - CPU bursts becoming shorter, I/O waiting is relatively constant
  - Processes are becoming more I/O bound

Observations

- We need a mix of CPU-bound and I/O-bound processes to keep both CPU and I/O systems busy
- Process can go from CPU- to I/O-bound (or vice versa) in different phases of execution

Observations

- Choosing to run an I/O-bound process delays a CPU-bound process by very little
- Choosing to run a CPU-bound process prior to an I/O-bound process delays the next I/O request significantly
  - No overlap of I/O waiting with computation
  - Results in device (disk) not as busy as possible
- Generally, favour I/O-bound processes over CPU-bound processes

When is scheduling performed?
- A new process
  - Run the parent or the child?
- A process exits
  - Who runs next?
- A process waits for I/O
  - Who runs next?
- A process blocks on a lock
  - Who runs next? The lock holder?
  - An I/O interrupt occurs
    - Who do we resume, the interrupted process or the process that was waiting?
  - On a timer interrupt? (See next slide)
- Generally, a scheduling decision is required when a process (or thread) can no longer continue, or when an activity results in more than one ready process.

Preemptive versus Non-preemptive Scheduling

- Non-preemptive
  - Once a thread is in the running state, it continues until it completes, blocks on I/O, or voluntarily yields the CPU
  - A single process can monopolise the entire system
- Preemptive Scheduling
  - Current thread can be interrupted by OS and moved to ready state.
  - Usually after a timer interrupt and process has exceeded its maximum run time
    - Can also be as a result of higher priority process that has become ready (after I/O interrupt).
  - Ensures fairer service as single thread can’t monopolise the system
    - Requires a timer interrupt
Categories of Scheduling Algorithms

- The choice of scheduling algorithm depends on the goals of the application (or the operating system)
  - No one algorithm suits all environments
- We can roughly categorise scheduling algorithms as follows
  - Batch Systems
    - No users directly waiting, can optimise for overall machine performance
  - Interactive Systems
    - Users directly waiting for their results, can optimise for users perceived performance
  - Realtime Systems
    - Jobs have deadlines, must schedule such that all jobs (mostly) meet their deadlines.

Goals of Scheduling Algorithms

- All Algorithms
  - Fairness
    - Give each process a fair share of the CPU
  - Policy Enforcement
    - What ever policy chosen, the scheduler should ensure it is carried out
  - Balance/Efficiency
    - Try to keep all parts of the system busy

Goals of Scheduling Algorithms

- Batch Algorithms
  - Maximise throughput
    - Throughput is measured in jobs per hour (or similar)
  - Minimise turn-around time
    - Turn-around time ($T_a$)
      - difference between time of completion and time of submission
    - Or waiting time ($T_w$) + execution time ($T_e$)
  - Maximise CPU utilisation
    - Keep the CPU busy
    - Not as good a metric as overall throughput

Goals of Scheduling Algorithms

- Interactive Algorithms
  - Minimise response time
    - Response time is the time difference between issuing a command and getting the result
      - E.g selecting a menu, and getting the result of that selection
    - Response time is important to the user’s perception of the performance of the system.
  - Provide Proportionality
    - Proportionality is the user expectation that short jobs will have a short response time, and long jobs can have a long response time.
    - Generally, favour short jobs

Goals of Scheduling Algorithms

- Real-time Algorithms
  - Must meet deadlines
    - Each job/task has a deadline.
    - A missed deadline can result in data loss or catastrophic failure
      - Aircraft control system missed deadline to apply brakes
  - Provide Predictability
    - For some apps, an occasional missed deadline is okay
      - E.g. DVD decoder
    - Predictable behaviour allows smooth DVD decoding with only rare skips

Scheduling Algorithms

Batch Systems
First-Come First-Served (FCFS)

- Algorithm
  - Each job is placed in single queue, the first job in the queue is selected, and allowed to run as long as it wants.
  - If the job blocks, the next job in the queue is selected to run
  - When a blocked job becomes ready, it is placed at the end of the queue

Example

- 5 Jobs
  - Job 1 arrives slightly before job 2, etc...
  - All are immediately runnable
  - Execution times indicated by scale on x-axis

FCFS Schedule

- Pros
  - Simple and easy to implement
- Cons
  - I/O-bound jobs wait for CPU-bound jobs
  - Favors CPU-bound processes

Shortest Job First

- If we know (or can estimate) the execution time \textit{a priori}, we choose the shortest job first.
- Another non-preemptive policy

Our Previous Example

- 5 Jobs
  - Job 1 arrives slightly before job 2, etc...
  - All are immediately runnable
  - Execution times indicated by scale on x-axis
Shortest Job First

- **Con**
  - May starve long jobs
  - Needs to predict job length

- **Pro**
  - Minimises average turnaround time (if, and only if, all jobs are available at the beginning)
  - Example: Assume for processes with execution times of $a$, $b$, $c$, and $d$,
    - $a$ finishes at time $a$, $b$ finishes at $a+b$, $c$ at $a+b+c$, and so on
    - Average turn-around time is $(4a + 3b + 2c + d)/4$
  - Since $a$ contributes most to average turn-around time, it should be the shortest job.

Shortest Remaining Time First

- A preemptive version of shortest job first
- When ever a new jobs arrive, choose the one with the shortest remaining time first
  - New short jobs get good service

Example

- 5 Jobs
  - Release and execution times as shown
Shortest Remaining Time First

Scheduling in Batch Systems
Three level scheduling
Three Level Scheduling

- **Admission Scheduler**
  - Also called *long-term* scheduler
  - Determines when jobs are admitted into the system for processing
  - Controls degree of multiprogramming
  - More processes \(\Rightarrow\) less CPU available per process

- **CPU scheduler**
  - Also called *short-term* scheduler
  - Invoked when ever a process blocks or is released, clock interrupts (if preemptive scheduling), I/O interrupts.
  - Usually, this scheduler is what we are referring to if we talk about a *scheduler*.

- **Memory Scheduler**
  - Also called *medium-term* scheduler
  - Adjusts the degree of multiprogramming via suspending processes and swapping them out