Assigned: Monday, October 20, 2003

WPI, Fall 2003 Homework 2 (10 pts) Due: Monday, November 10, 2003

## Paper Review

For this homework you are to read and review the paper "Scalability of Linux Event-Dispatch Mechanisms" [1]. In reading papers for this course (and in general) you should get in the habit of taking notes while reading, either on the paper itself or separately. These notes should be on points you agree or disagree with, or questions that arise as you read. Sometimes questions that you have will be answered later in the paper. If not answered later then these questions should be included in your review or be raised in class discussion.

After reading the paper you should write a review of the paper. This review should summarize the main points of the paper, focusing on the main ideas, assumptions, insights and conclusions of the paper. This summary should be at most a page. At least as important is for you to include a discussion of your thoughts and questions on the paper. As a word of caution, do not take every word in the paper as gospel. Do not be afraid to question or criticize what was done. As you become more familiar with literature, you will have a better basis to compare the work to others' work and set the work in context. The following are questions to think about in your writeup.

- 1. What problem(s) is being addressed by this work?
- 2. What are the stated objectives of the work?
- 3. What is the outcome (results) of the work? What worked well and what did not work? What are the tradeoffs?
- 4. How would you critique the paper?
- 5. What questions do you have about the work or paper?
- 6. What additional readings were or should be consulted?

As a guideline, your review should be up to 500 words in length. This is a guideline and not a hard and fast rule. A good review will have a concise summary of the paper as well as your personal insight and critique on the paper.

## References

[1] Abhishek Chandra and David Mosberger. Scalability of Linux event-dispatch mechanisms. In *Proceedings of the 2001 USENIX Annual Technical Conference*, Boston, MA USA, June 2001.