

Purpose

This assignment is designed to acquaint you with important work in the field of operating systems, and serve as an introduction to reading systems research work. The specific paper for this assignment is “The UNIX Time-Sharing System” [1]. Reading the paper provides an interesting perspective on the field, and on designing and building a system with novel features for its time. You are welcome to read other referenced papers, but this paper is sufficient for completing the assignment.

An online copy of this paper is available in ACM’s Digital Library (<http://portal.acm.org/>). WPI has a subscription to ACM so access to the library is allowed from WPI machines. If you are off-campus, you can gain access to the library and other online subscriptions through the WPI library proxy. See <http://www.wpi.edu/Academics/Library/Help/proxy.html> for details.

You should read the paper and answer the following questions. These questions have no right and wrong answer, but are intended to make you think about what you are reading. There is no required length for an answer, but overall it should be obvious that you read the paper. Please submit a hard copy with your answers on the due date.

Questions

1. What struck you the most about the paper?
2. What did you learn by reading this paper?
3. What features described do you have first-hand knowledge with?
4. What features described do you not have first-hand knowledge with?
5. What terms were unfamiliar and caused problems in reading?
6. What was interesting in reading the paper that you would like to study more in the class?

References

- [1] D. M. Ritchie and K. Thompson. The UNIX time-sharing system. *Communications of the ACM*, 17(7):365–375, July 1974.