Deadlock

Consider this example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process A</th>
<th>Process B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>printer-&gt;wait();</td>
<td>disk-&gt;wait();</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disk-&gt;wait();</td>
<td>printer-&gt;wait();</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>print file</td>
<td>print file</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>printer-&gt;signal();</td>
<td>disk-&gt;signal();</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disk-&gt;signal();</td>
<td>printer-&gt;signal();</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Deadlock occurs when two or more processes are each waiting for an event that will never occur, since it can only be generated by another process in that set.

Deadlock is one of the more difficult problems that OS designers face.

As we examine various approaches to dealing with deadlock, notice the tradeoffs between how well the approach solves the problem, and its performance /OS overhead.

Deadlock (cont.)

OS must distribute system resources among competing processes:

- CPU cycles           preemtatable
- Memory space         preemtatable
- Files                non-preemtatable
- I/O devices (printer) non-preemtatable

A request for a type of resource can be satisfied by any resource of that type:

- Use any 100 bytes in memory
- Use either one of two identical printers

Process requests resource(s), uses it/them, then releases it/them:

- We will assume here that the resource is re-usable; it is not consumed
- Waits if resource is not currently available

Deadlock Conditions

These 4 conditions are necessary and sufficient for deadlock to occur:

- Mutual exclusion — if one process holds a resource, other processes requesting that resource must wait until the process releases it (only one can use it at a time)

- No preemption — resources are released voluntarily; neither another process nor the OS can force a process to release a resource

- Hold and wait — processes are allowed to hold one (or more) resource and be waiting to acquire additional resources that are being held by other processes

- Circular wait — there must exist a set of waiting processes such that P0 is waiting for a resource held by P1, P1 is waiting for a resource held by P2, ... Pn-1 is waiting for a resource held by Pn, and Pn is waiting for a resource held P0

Deadlock Prevention

Basic idea: ensure that one of the 4 conditions for deadlock can not hold

- Mutual exclusion — if one process holds a resource, other processes requesting that resource must wait until the process releases it

  - Hard to avoid mutual exclusion for non-sharable resources
    - Printers
    - Files
    - I/O devices or network connections

  - For printer, avoid mutual exclusion through spooling — then process won’t have to wait on physical printer

  - However, many resources are sharable, so deadlock can be avoided for them
    - Read-only files (binaries, perhaps)
    - Most files in your account
Deadlock Prevention (cont.)

- **No preemption** — resources are released voluntarily; neither another process nor the OS can force a process to release a resource
  - To avoid, allow preemption
    - If process A requests resources that aren’t available, see who holds those resources
      - If the holder (process B) is waiting on additional resources, preempt the resource requested by process A
      - Otherwise, process A has to wait
        - While waiting, some of its current resources may be preempted
        - Can only wake up when it acquires the new resources plus any preempted resources
    - If a process requests a resource that can not be allocated to it, all resources held by that process are preempted
      - Can only wake up when it can acquire all the requested resources
    - Only works for resources whose state can be saved/restored (memory, not printer)

Deadlock Prevention (cont.)

- **Hold and wait** — processes are allowed to hold one (or more) resource and be waiting to acquire additional resources that are being held by other processes
  - To avoid, ensure that whenever a process requests a resource, it doesn’t hold any other resources
    - Request all resources (at once) at beginning of process execution
      - Process which loops forever?
    - Request all resources (at once) at any point in the program
    - To get a new resource, release all current resources, then try to acquire new one plus old ones all at once
  - Difficult to know what to request in advance
  - Wasteful; ties up resources and reduces resource utilization
  - Starvation is possible

Deadlock Prevention (cont.)

- **Circular wait** — there must exist a set of waiting processes such that P0 is waiting for a resource held by P1, P1 is waiting for a resource held by P2, ... Pn-1 is waiting for a resource held by Pn, and Pn is waiting for a resource held P0
  - To avoid, impose a total order on all resources, and require process to request resource in that order
    - Order: disk drive, printer, CDROM
    - Process A requests disk drive, then printer
    - Process B requests disk drive, then printer
    - Process B does not request printer, then disk drive, which could lead to deadlock
  - Order should be in the logical sequence that the resources are usually acquired
    - Allow process to release all resources, and start request sequence over
    - Or force process to request total number of each resource in a single request

Dealing with Deadlock

- **The Ostrich Approach** — stick your head in the sand and ignore the problem
- **Deadlock prevention** — prevent deadlock from occurring by eliminating one of the 4 deadlock conditions
- **Deadlock detection algorithms** — detect when deadlock has occurred
  - **Deadlock recovery algorithms** — break the deadlock
- **Deadlock avoidance algorithms** — consider resources currently available, resources allocated to each process, and possible future requests, and only fulfill requests that will not lead to deadlock
Resource-Allocation Graph

- The deadlock conditions can be modeled using a directed graph called a resource-allocation graph (RAG)

  - 2 kinds of nodes:
    - Boxes — represent resources
      - Instances of the resource are represented as dots within the box
    - Circles — represent processes

  - 2 kinds of (directed) edges:
    - Request edge — from process to resource
      - indicates the process has requested the resource, and is waiting to acquire it
    - Assignment edge — from resource instance to process — indicates the process is holding the resource instance

- When a request is made, a request edge is added
  - When request is fulfilled, the request edge is transformed into an assignment edge
  - When process releases the resource, the assignment edge is deleted

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Interpreting a RAG With Single Resource Instances

- If the graph does not contain a cycle, then no deadlock exists

- If the graph does contain a cycle, then a deadlock does exist

- With single resource instances, a cycle is a necessary and sufficient condition for deadlock