EXERCISE:
L4 BOOTCAMP

CARSTEN WEINHOLD
AGENDA

- first contact with a microkernel OS
- talk about system booting
- getting to know QEMU
- compile Fiasco
- compile minimal system environment
- the usual „Hello World“
- look at source and config, play with it
developing your own kernel usually requires a dedicated machine
we will use a virtual machine
QEMU is open-source, provides a virtual machine by binary translation
it emulates a complete x86 PC
... many other system architectures, too
our QEMU will boot from an ISO image
BOOTING
- Basic Input Output System
- fixed entry point after „power on“ and „reset“
- initializes the CPU in 16-bit real-mode
- detects, checks, and initializes platform hardware (RAM, PCI, ATA, ...)
- finds the boot device
BOOT SECTOR

- first sector on boot disk
- 512 bytes
- contains first boot loader stage and partition table
- BIOS loads code into RAM and executes it
- problem: How to find and boot an OS in 512 bytes?
MEMORY

Physical Memory

- BIOS, Video RAM
- Boot Code

BIOS
- popular boot loader
- used by most (all?) Linux distributions
- uses a two-stage-approach
  - first stage fits in one sector
  - has hard-wired sectors of second stage files
- second stage can read common file systems
- second stage loads a menu.lst config file to present a boot menu
- from there, you can load your kernel
- supports loading multiple modules
- files can also be retrieved from network
- switches CPU to 32-bit protected mode
- loads and interprets the „kernel“ binary
- loads additional modules into memory
- sets up multiboot info structure
- starts the kernel
MEM LAYOUT

Physical Memory

- Grub
- Multiboot Info
- BIOS, Video RAM
- Kernel Binary
- Module
- Module
- Module
- Module

Boot Loader

BIOS
■ our modules are ELF files: executable and linkable format
■ contain multiple sections
  ▪ code, data, BSS
■ bootstrap interprets the ELF modules
■ copies sections to final location in physical memory
- actual L4 kernel is the first of the modules
- must know about the other modules
- bootstrap sets up a kernel info page
  - contains entry point + stack pointer of sigma0 and moe
- passes control to the kernel
MEM LAYOUT

- Module
- BIOS, Video RAM
- Multiboot Info
- Kernel

Physical Memory

- Code
- Data
- Code
- Data

Bootstrap

Boot Loader

BIOS
- initial kernel code
- basic CPU setup
  - detecting CPU features
  - setup various CPU-tables
- sets up basic page table
- enables virtual memory mode
- runs the actual kernel code
MEM LAYOUT

Virtual Memory

Kernel Memory

Kernel

Physical Memory
1:1 mapped

Kernel Loader
Bootstrap
Boot Loader
BIOS

BIOS

Boot Loader

Bootstrap

Kernel Loader

Physical Memory
1:1 mapped

Kernel

Kernel Memory
- sets up kernel structures
- sets up scheduling timer
- starts first pager
- starts first task
- starts scheduling
- scheduler hands control to userland for the first time
- is first pager in the system
- initially receives a 1:1 mapping of physical memory
- ... and other platform-level resources (I/O ports)
- sigma0 is the root of the pager hierarchy
- pager for moe
- manages initial resources
  - namespace
  - memory
  - VESA framebuffer
- provides logging facility
- mini-filesystem for read-only access to boot-modules
- script-driven loader for further programs
- startup-scripts written in Lua
- additional software can be loaded by retrieving binaries via disk or network
- ned injects common service code into every task
Setup

• download the source tarball from https://os.inf.tu-dresden.de/Studium/KMB/WS2022/Exercise1.tar.bz2
• unpack the tarball
  • it comes with a working directory
  • `cd` in there and have a look around
Compiling the System

- initialize the environment with `make setup` in the toplevel directory you unpacked
- run `make` within the toplevel directory
Test-Driving QEMU

• create a bootable ISO image
  • the iso subdirectory is for the ISO’s content
  • run isocreator from src/l4/tool/bin on this directory
• your ISO will contain a minimal grub installation
• launch QEMU with the resulting ISO:
  qemu-system-x86_64 -cdrom boot.iso
Booting Fiasco

- copy some files to the ISO directory
  - **fiasco** from the Fiasco build directory
    `obj/fiasco/amd64/`
  - bootstrap from
    `obj/l4/amd64/bin/amd64_gen/`
  - sigma0, moe, l4re and ned from
    `obj/l4/amd64/bin/amd64_gen/l4f/`
Booting Fiasco

• edit `iso/boot/grub/menu.lst`:
  title Getting Started
  kernel /bootstrap -serial
  modaddr 0x02000000
  module /fiasco
  module /sigma0
  module /moe
  module /l4re
  module /ned

• rebuild the ISO and run `qemu`
Preparing for Hello

• create the file `hello.lua` in the `iso` directory with this content:

```lua
local L4 = require("L4");
L4.default_loader:start({},
"rom/hello");
```

• pass `ned` this new startup script
  • add this line to `menu.lst`:
    ```
    module /hello.lua
    ```
  • pass `rom/hello.lua` as parameter to `moe`

• load the future `hello` module in `menu.lst`
Exercise 1: Hello World

- create a directory for your hello-project
- create a Makefile with the following content:
  ```
  PKGDIR ?= .
  L4DIR   ?= absolute path to L4 source tree
  OBJ_BASE = absolute path to L4 build tree
  TARGET  = hello
  SRC_C    = hello.c
  include $(L4DIR)/mk/prog.mk
  ```
- fill in `hello.c` and compile with `make`
- run in `qemu`
Exercise 2: Ackermann Function

• write a program that spawns six threads
  • you can use pthreads in our system
  • add the line
    \texttt{REQUIRES\_LIBS = libpthread}
    to your \texttt{Makefile}

• each thread should calculate one value \(a(3,0..5)\) of the Ackermann function:
  • \(a(0,m) = m+1\)
  • \(a(n,0) = a(n-1,1)\)
  • \(a(n,m) = a(n-1,a(n,m-1))\)