Linux/UNIX Threads and IPC Programming

Course code: M7D-TIPC01

This course provides a grounding in multithreaded programming using POSIX threads as well as a deep understanding of various IPC (interprocess communication) techniques that can be used to build cooperating multiprocess applications. Detailed presentations coupled with many carefully designed practical exercises provide participants with the knowledge needed to write complex system, network, and multithreaded applications.

**Audience and prerequisites**

The audience for this course includes programmers developing and porting system-level and network applications for Linux and UNIX systems, embedded application developers, security engineers, site reliability engineers, and DevOps engineers.

To get the most out of the course, participants should have:

- Good reading knowledge of the C programming language
- Solid programming experience in a language suitable for completing the course exercises (e.g., C, C++, D, Go, Rust, or Python)
- Knowledge of basic UNIX/Linux shell commands

Some system programming background is assumed. Where necessary, such background can be gained from the Linux/UNIX System Programming Fundamentals (M7D-SPINTRO01) course.

**Course duration and format**

Three days, with up to 40% devoted to practical sessions.

**Course materials**

- Course books (written by the trainer) that include all slides and exercises presented in the course
- An electronic copy of the trainer's book, *The Linux Programming Interface*
- A source code tarball containing more than 35,000 lines of example code written by the trainer

**Course inquiries and bookings**

For inquiries about courses and consulting, you can contact us in the following ways:

- Email: training@man7.org
- Phone: +49 (89) 2155 2990 (German landline)

**Prices, dates, and further details**

For course prices, upcoming course dates, and further information about the course, please visit the course web page, [http://man7.org/training/lusp/](http://man7.org/training/lusp/).

**About the trainer**

Michael Kerrisk has a unique set of qualifications and experience that ensure that course participants receive training of a very high standard:

- He has been programming on UNIX systems since 1987 and began teaching UNIX system programming courses in 1989.
- He is the author of *The Linux Programming Interface*, a 1550-page book widely acclaimed as the definitive work on Linux system programming.
- He is actively involved in Linux development, working with kernel developers on testing, review, and design of new Linux kernel–user-space APIs.
- Since 2004, he has been the maintainer of the Linux man-pages project, which provides the manual pages documenting the Linux kernel–user-space and GNU C library APIs.
Linux/UNIX Threads and IPC Programming: course contents in detail

Topics marked with an asterisk (*) are optional, and will be covered as time permits

1. Threads: Introduction
   - Pthreads API basics
   - Thread creation and termination
   - Thread IDs
   - Joining and detaching threads
   - Thread attributes
   - Signals and threads
   - Threads and process control

2. Threads: Synchronization
   - Shared resources and critical sections
   - Mutexes
   - Locking and unlocking a mutex
   - Condition variables
   - Signaling and waiting on condition variables
   - Dynamically initialized mutexes
   - Dynamically initialized condition variables
   - Other synchronization primitives

3. IPC: Introduction and Overview
   - Categorizing IPC
   - Choosing an IPC mechanism

4. Pipes and FIFOs
   - Creating and using pipes
   - Connecting filters with pipes
   - FIFOs

5. Sockets: Concepts and UNIX Domain
   - Socket types and domains
   - Creating and binding a socket
   - System calls: stream sockets
   - UNIX domain stream sockets
   - System calls: datagram sockets
   - UNIX domain datagram sockets
   - Further details of UNIX domain sockets

6. Sockets: Internet Domain
   - Internet domain sockets
   - Data-representation issues
   - Loopback and wildcard addresses
   - Host addresses and port numbers
   - Host and service conversion
   - Internet domain sockets example
   - Additional sockets system calls

7. Alternative I/O Models
   - Nonblocking I/O
   - Signal-driven I/O
   - I/O multiplexing: poll() / select()
   - Problems with poll() and select()
   - The epoll API
   - epoll events
   - epoll: edge-triggered

8. POSIX Semaphores
   - Named semaphores
   - Semaphore operations
   - Synchronizing access to a shared resource
   - Unnamed semaphores

9. POSIX Shared Memory
   - Creating & opening shared memory objects
   - Using shared memory objects
   - Synchronizing access to shared memory

10. POSIX Message Queues (*)
    - Opening, closing, and unlinking a message queue
    - Message queue attributes
    - Sending and receiving messages
    - The mqueue filesystem
    - Message queue limits and defaults
    - Message notification via a signal
    - Message notification via a thread

11. System Call Tracing with strace (*)
    - Getting started
    - Tracing child processes
    - Filtering strace output