**Week2 Questions**

1. What is the purpose of system calls?
2. What are the five major activities of an operating system with regard to process management?
3. What are the three major activities of an operating system with regard to memory management?
4. What are the three major activities of an operating system with regard to secondary-storage management?
5. What is the purpose of the command interpreter? Why is it usually separate from the kernel?
6. What system calls have to be executed by a command interpreter or shell in order to start a new process?
7. What is the purpose of system programs?
8. What is the main advantage of the layered approach to system design?
9. What are the disadvantages of the layered approach?
10. List five services provided by an operating system, and explain how each creates convenience for users. In which cases would it be impossible for user-level programs to provide these services? Explain your answer.
11. Why do some systems store the operating system in firmware, while others store it on disk?
12. How could a system be designed to allow a choice of operating systems from which to boot? What would the bootstrap program need to do?
13. The services and functions provided by an operating system can be divided into two main categories. Briefly describe the two categories, and discuss how they differ.
14. Describe three general methods for passing parameters to the operating system.
15. What are the five major activities of an operating system with regard to file management?
16. What are the two models of interprocess communication (IPC)? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the two approaches?
17. Why is the separation of mechanism and policy desirable?
18. What is the main advantage of the microkernel approach to system design? How do user programs and system services interact in microkernel architecture? What are the disadvantages of using the microkernel approach?
19. What are the advantages of using loadable kernel modules?