This project is due at 11:59:59pm on February 8, 2012. You must complete it with a partner. You may only complete it in a group of three if you have the instructor’s explicit permission to do so for this project.

Note that there is a milestone deadline at 11:59:59pm on February 1st, 2012. More details are in the Milestone section below.

1 Description

There are several goals for this assignment. First, you will get a chance to familiarize yourself with the C programming language. Second, you will learn how to use some of the I/O facilities and library functions provided by UNIX and C. Third, you get some experience with the process creation and program starting facilities in UNIX. Fourth, you’ll get some experience making your program robust (i.e., resistant to crashing).

Your assignment is to write a shell: a program that starts up other programs. Your shell, called 3600sh will read input lines from standard input, parse them into a command name and arguments, and then start a new process running that command. When you start your shell, it will provide a prompt and then wait for a command line of the form:

    foobar -l this and that

This starts a program stored in a file called foobar with four arguments: -l, this, and, and that.

2 Requirements

Your shell will read commands, line by line, from standard input, execute the commands, and write the output of commands to standard output.

2.1 Starter code

Very basic starter code for the assignment is available in /course/cs3600sp12/code/project1. You must use this code as a basis for your project. Provided is a 3600sh code and header file, and a Makefile. The Makefile is configured to correctly compile your code and to test your code on sample input.

To get started, you should copy down this directory into your own local directory (i.e., cp -r /course/cs3600sp12/projects/project1 ~/). You can compile your code by running make. You can also delete any compiled code and object files by running make clean.

2.2 Input format

Each line has exactly one command and zero or more arguments, and is of the form:

    cmd arg_1 ... arg_k
Each of these items is separated by one more more blank characters (spaces or tabs). There is one command per input line. Your shell will fork a child process and then overlay itself (exec) the command in the file named by cmd. The shell parent process will default to waiting for the child process to complete before prompting for the next command.

2.3 Features
Your client must support the following features:

Command prompt When requesting input, your shell should print a prompt with the format

[user]@[host]:[dir]>[space]

For example, this might look like

amislove@joshua:/usr>

If, for any reason, you are unable to launch the program that the user requested, you should print out an error

Error: [meaningful error]

and then issue another prompt. In particular, if you are unable to find the requested executable, you should print out

Error: Command not found.

Arguments You must support a maximum of exactly 10 command-line arguments for each command, including the name of the executable (for the purposes of this requirement, the background character & should count as an argument, even though it is not passed to the executable). If the user tries to launch a command with more than 10 arguments (including the executable name), you must print out the error

Error: Too many arguments.

Background processes Optionally, at the end of any command input, can be a & character, which means that the parent process does not wait for the child process to complete before prompting for the next command. If any arguments follow a &, your shell should print out

Error: Invalid syntax.

Escape characters Your shell should allow users to pass arguments with spaces in them through the use of backslash-space. For example, if the user runs

echo foo\ bar\ baz
You should launch the echo program with a single argument of `foo bar baz`, rather than three separate arguments. Note that the backslash characters are “eaten” by your shell. Your shell should allow users to send the backslash character by entering a double backslash (`\`). For example, if the user runs

```bash
echo foo \barblah\ baz
```

You should launch the echo program with three arguments of "foo, \bar, and blah baz. If the user enters a backslash followed by any character other than another backslash or a space, your shell should print out

```
Error: Unrecognized escape sequence.
```

**Shell commands** Your shell should support the special `exit` command, which causes the shell to exit. You should print out

```
So long, and thanks for all the fish!
```

## 3 Running and debugging your program

**Read this section in its entirety** before you begin implementing and testing your shell. If you have any questions, please contact the course staff.

In past semesters, students have managed to take down various CCIS resources by incorrectly using functions like `fork` and by leaving old processes burning the CPU. A few notes:

**Do not run your code on login.ccs.neu.edu** This machine is the central login server, so IT asks that you not develop your code there. Instead, use any other CCIS machine (fun fact: you can ssh into any of the lab machines, and those serve as great places to develop and test your code).

**Do not leave old processes hanging around** In the past, students have caused the load average (the average number of processes waiting to run) on CCIS machines to spike in the hundreds, which makes the machines rather unusable. Make sure to clean up any old processes you have left running (see notes on `ps/kill` below).

**Be careful with `fork()`** Recall that I mentioned fork bombs in class – this is when a process recursively `fork()`s, causing more and more processes to be created. Make sure that your code doesn’t do this. Your code should *never* recursively call `fork` (a child forking another child). Double- and triple-check your `fork()` calls to make sure this doesn’t happen.

**Learn how to use `ps` and `kill`** To list the processes that you have running, use the `ps` command:

```
bash$ ps

PID TTY TIME CMD
36284 ttys000 0:00.28 -bash
39471 ttys001 0:00.34 -bash
```
This means that I have two bash processes running. If you see, like, 100 3600sh processes, congratulations! — your processes is likely running a fork bomb. To fix this, you can run

```bash
bash$ killall -KILL 3600sh
```

Sometimes you’ll have to run this multiple times in succession in order to make sure they’re all dead. Don’t worry; this will only kill your processes (and no one else’s). Note that if the 3600sh process is running under your partner’s login, she/he will have to be the one to run that command.

Every so often (and before you leave the machine) check to make sure that you haven't left any processes hanging around using up CPU.

## 4 Implementation hints

The command line is processed (by the shell) into a list of character strings, one for each argument (including the command name). These arguments are passed as parameters to the exec command (you’ll probably want to use `execvp`). Make sure that your program can handle input lines that have very long command names and arguments. You must also be able to deal gracefully with command lines that are arbitrarily long; you must be able to gracefully reject them.

You should develop your client program on the CCIS Linux machines, as these have the necessary compiler and library support. You are welcome to use your own Linux/OS X machines, but you are responsible for getting your code working, and your code must work when graded on the CCIS Linux machines. If you do not have a CCIS account, you should get one ASAP in order to complete the project. Your code must be `-Wall` clean on `gcc`. Do not ask the TA for help on (or post to the forum) code that is not `-Wall` clean unless getting rid of the warning is what the problem is in the first place.

You will want to make sure that you break your program up into modules, such that each module represents a sensible type abstraction. If you have questions on how to do this, please come see me or the TA.

## 5 Testing

First test that your program can start up simple programs and pass parameters to them. Then test it by running standard UNIX/Linux utilities like `ls`. Your program should not crash, no matter how weird the input; in all cases, your program should print an error and ask for another command. For example, suppose that the input has zero-value characters (bytes) or lines that have 1,000,000 characters? As a result, you may not be able to use the input routines that first occur to you.

You can create test scripts to test your shell with by simply putting commands in a test file, one on each line. For example, you can create the file `script.txt` with the contents

```bash
ls -a1
whoami
foobar
```

and then run your shell on this input with
bash$ ./3600sh < script.txt

Your shell should read the input file as if it were coming from the keyboard, and print the results (and any error messages) out to your terminal.

Additionally, we have included a basic test script to check the output of your code against our reference solution and check your code's compatibility with the grading script. If your code fails in the test script we provide, you can be assured that it will fare poorly when run under the grading script. To run the test script, simply type

bash$ make test

This will compile your code and then test your shell on a number of inputs, comparing the results against the reference solution. If any errors are detected, the test will print out the expected and actual output. For example, you might see something like

bash$ make test
./test
   Trying with script 'ls' [FAIL]  
   Diff in expected output:
   < amislove@bubbles:/home/amislove/project1> 3600sh
   < 3600sh.c
   < 3600sh.h
   < Makefile
   < test
   > blah
bash$

This indicates that the test with input ./cs3600 was expected to print out the lines preceded by <, but instead returned blah (the output is simply a diff between the output of your shell and the reference shell). We include a few sample tests, but these are by no means exhaustive. We expect that you will create additional tests to ensure that your programs behave as expected.

6 Submitting your project

6.1 Registering your team

You and your partner should first register as a team by running the /course/cs3600sp12/bin/register script. You should pick out a team name (no spaces or non-alphanumeric characters, please) and run

/course/cs3600sp12/bin/register project1 <teamname>

This will either report back success or will give you an error message. If you have trouble registering, please contact the course staff.

6.2 Milestone

In order to ensure that you are making sufficient progress, you will have an interim milestone deadline. For the milestone, you do not need to submit any README or documentation; you only need to submit your code. You code must successfully launch programs and support the exit shell command (for example, all of the tests marked “Milestone Tests” should pass). It need not support background processes or backslash-quote. For the milestone, we will not be testing it against malicious (incorrectly formatted) input.

You should submit your milestone by running the /course/cs3600sp12/bin/turnin script. Specifically, you should create a project1 directory, and place all of your code in it. Then, run

/course/cs3600sp12/bin/turnin project1-milestone <dir>

Where <teamname> is the team name you registered and <dir> is the name of the directory with your submission. The script will print out every file that you are submitting, make sure that it prints out all of the files you wish to submit!

You must submit your milestone by 11:59:59pm on February 1st, 2012. No slip days can be used on the milestone.

6.3 Final submission

For the final submission, you should submit you (thoroughly documented) code along with a plain-text (no Word or PDF) README file. In this file, you should describe your high-level approach, the challenges you faced, a list of properties/features of your design that you think is good, and an overview of how you tested your code. In your README, you should also point out any extra features of your project that you have implemented.

You should submit your project by running the /course/cs3600sp12/bin/turnin script. Specifically, you should create a project1 directory, and place all of your code and README files in it. Then, run

/course/cs3600sp12/bin/turnin project1 <dir>

Where <teamname> is the team name you registered and <dir> is the name of the directory with your submission. Again, the script will print out every file that you are submitting, make sure that it prints out all of the files you wish to submit!

You must submit your project by 11:59:59pm on February 8th, 2012.

7 Grading

The grading in this project will consist of

50% Program functionality
25% Correct error handling
15% Style and documentation
10% Milestone functionality
8 Advice

A few pointers that you may find useful while working on this project:

• You should check the output of your program versus other shells. On Linux/OS X/UNIX, you can use the `sh` shell, which provides basic shell functionality.

• Check the Blackboard forum for question and clarifications. You should post project-specific questions there first, before emailing the course staff.

• Finally, get started early and come to the TA lab hours - these are held from 4:00pm–6:00pm on Wednesdays in the lab at 102 West Village H (soon to change, though). You are welcome to come to the lab and work, and ask the TA any questions you may have.