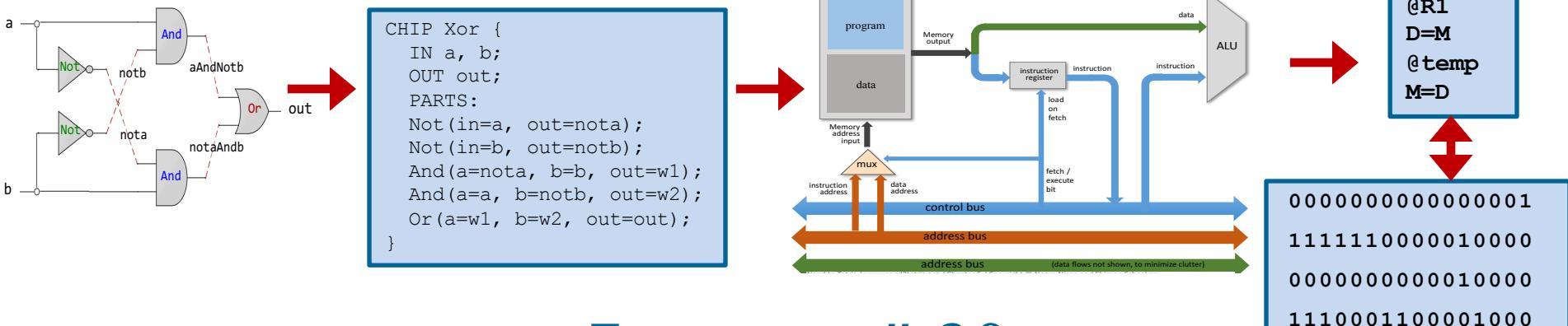




# Computer Organization & Assembly Language Programming



## Lecture # 30

### Structure of x86-64 Assembly Program

```
#include<stdio.h>  
#include<stdlib.h>  
int main(){  
    printf("Learning is fun with Arif\n");  
    exit(0);  
}
```

```
global main  
SECTION .data  
msg: db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0Ah, 0h  
len_msg: equ $ - msg  
SECTION .text  
main:  
    mov rax,1  
    mov rdi,1  
    mov rsi,msg  
    mov rdx,len_msg  
    syscall  
    mov rax,60  
    mov rdi,0  
    syscall
```

```
0: b8 01 00 00 00  
5: bf 01 00 00 00  
a: 48 be 00 00 00 00  
11: 00 00 00  
14: ba 1b 00 00 00  
19: 0f 05  
1b: b8 3c 00 00 00  
20: bf 00 00 00 00  
25: 0f 05
```



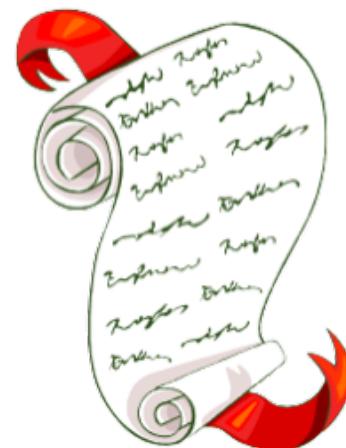
For resources visit my personal website:  
<https://www.arifbutt.me>  
and course bitbucket repository:  
<https://bitbucket.org/arifpucit/coal-repo>

Instructor: Muhammad Arif Butt, Ph.D.



# Today's Agenda

- Review of Tool Chain & Programming Environment
- Scuba Diving in ***first.nasm***
  - Assembly Language Statements
  - Assembly Instruction Format
  - Layout of x86\_64 Assembly Programs
    - Section .data
    - Section .bss
    - Section .text
  - X86 MOV Instruction
  - X86-64 SYSCALL Instruction



# Review of Tool Chain & Programming Env

## first.nasm

```
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; Programmer: Arif Butt
; first.nasm

SECTION .data
    msg db "Learning...", 0xA
    EXIT_STATUS equ 54

SECTION .bss
;nothing here

SECTION .text
    global _start
    _start:
;display a message on screen
        mov rax,1
        mov rdi,1
        mov rsi,msg
        mov rdx,26
        syscall
;exit the program
        mov rax,60
        mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS
        syscall
```

Assemble

## first.o

```
10001000
01000001
1000101001001001
0101011000011111
0001010011110000
10001000
01001101
10001000
01001001
10001001001000
0101011000011111
0001010011110000
10001000
01001101
10001000
01001001
10001001001000
0101011000011111
0001010011110000
10001000
10001000
01000001
0101011000011111
0001010011110000
10001000
10001000
0001010010010001
10001010
01001011
0001010011110000
10001000
01001101
10001000
```

Link

## myexe

```
1000101001001001
0101011000011111
0001010011110000
10001000
01001101
10001000
10001000
01001001
10001000
10001000
01000001
0101011000011111
0001010011110000
10001000
10001000
0001010010010001
10001010
01001011
0001010011110000
10001000
01001101
10001000
```

Load &  
Execute

```
$ nasm -felf64 first.nasm -o first.o
$ ld first.o -o myexe
$ ./myexe
```

Learning is fun with Arif



# Scuba Diving inside first.nasm



# Assembly Language Statements

## first.nasm

```
; COAL Video Lecture: 30
; Programmer: Arif Butt
; first.nasm

SECTION .data
    msg db "Learning...", 0xA
    EXIT_STATUS equ 54

SECTION .bss
;nothing here

SECTION .text
    global _start
    _start:
;display a message on screen
        mov rax,1
        mov rdi,1
        mov rsi,msg
        mov rdx,26
        syscall
;exit the program
        mov rax,60
        mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS
        syscall
```

There are three types of statements in assembly language programming. Typically, each statement should appear on a separate line

- **x86-64 Assembly Instructions:** These instructions are actually converted into machine code, and when executed, instruct the processor what to do. Some x86 specific assembly instructions are `mov`, `add`, `sub`, `syscall`
- **Pseudo Instruction:** These are not real x86 machine instructions but are normally used in the real instruction field. Some `nasm` specific pseudo instructions are `DB`, `DW`, `RESB`, `RESW`, `EQU`
- **Assembler Directives:** Assembly directives are the statements that direct the assembler to do something. The specialty of these statements is that they are effective only during the assembly of a program and they do not generate any machine executable code. Some `nasm` specific directives are `SECTION`, `EXTERN`, `GLOBAL`, `BITS`



# Assembly Language Instruction Format

; first.nasm

Label/var: Mnemonic

msg  
X\_STAT

SECTION

db

equ

SECTION

\_start:

SECTION

global

mov

mov

mov

mov

syscall

mov

mov

syscall

Operand

.data  
"Learning...Arif", 0xA  
54

.bss

.text  
\_start

rax,1  
rdi,1  
rsi,msg  
rdx,26

rax,60  
rdi, X\_STAT

Comment

; a comment

; nothing here



# Structure of Assembly Program

Initialized  
Data Section

```
; first.nasm

SECTION .data ; a comment
msg    db      "Learning...Arif", 0xA
X_STAT equ     54
```

Un-Initialized  
Data Section

```
SECTION .bss
```

; nothing here

Code Section

```
SECTION .text
global _start

_start:
    mov    rax, 1
    mov    rdi, 1
    mov    rsi, msg
    mov    rdx, 26
    syscall
    mov    rax, 60
    mov    rdi, X_STAT
    syscall
```

# Section .data: Initialized Data

- All initialized data like variables and constants are placed in the .data section
- A constant is defined with equ instruction:  
`<constName> equ <value>`
- A define directive sets aside storage in memory for variables. The general format for variable declaration is:  
`<varName> <defineDir> <iv> [,iv]`
- NASM provides various directives for reserving storage space for variables, which are given in following table:

Directives	Purpose	Storage Space
DB	Define Byte	8 bits
DW	Define Word	16 bits
DD	Define Double Word	32 bits
DQ	Define Quad Word	64 bits
DT	Define Ten Bytes	80 bits
DO	IEEE-754 Quad	128 bits

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## SECTION .data

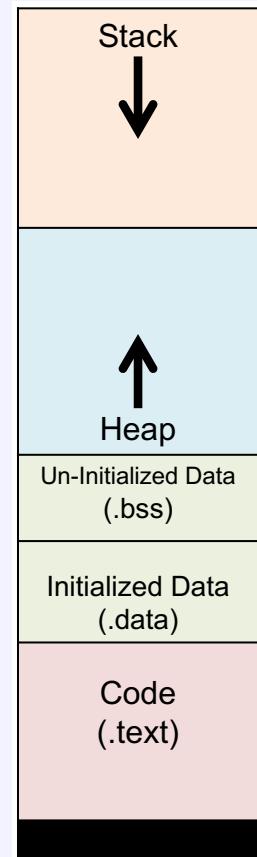
```
msg db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0xA
EXIT_STATUS equ 54
```

## SECTION .bss

```
;nothing here yet
```

## SECTION .text

```
global _start
_start:
;display a message on screen
    mov rax,1
    mov rdi,1
    mov rsi,msg
    mov rdx,26
    syscall
;exit the program
    mov rax,60
    mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS
    syscall
```



# Section .data: Initialized Data (cont...)

## Examples:

```
bVar    db    10      ;byte variable
cVar    db    "H"     ;single character
msg     db    "Hello!" ;string variable
wVar    dw    5000   ;16-bit variable
dVar    dd    50000  ;32-bit variable
qVar    dq    5000000 ;64-bit variable
arr     dd    10,20,30 ;array of 32-bit var
```

```
flt1   dd    3.14159 ;IEEE-754 single precision
flt2   dt    3.14159 ;IEEE-754 double precision
flt3   do    3.14159 ;IEEE-754 quad precision
```

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## SECTION .data

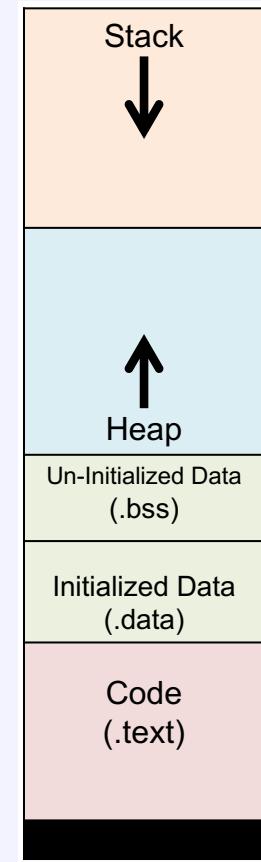
```
msg db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0xA
EXIT_STATUS equ 54
```

## SECTION .bss

;nothing here yet

## SECTION .text

```
global _start
_start:
;display a message on screen
    mov rax,1
    mov rdi,1
    mov rsi,msg
    mov rdx,26
    syscall
;exit the program
    mov rax,60
    mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS
    syscall
```



# Section .bss: Un-Initialized Data

- All uninitialized data is declared in the .bss section (Block Storage Start)
- You use the RES directive to reserve uninitialized space in memory for your variables
- The general format for variable declaration is:  
`<varName> <resDirective> <count>`
- NASM present various RES directives, which are given in following table:

Directives	Purpose
RESB	Reserve Byte
RESW	Reserve Word
RESD	Reserve Double Word
RESQ	Reserve Quad Word
REST	Reserve 10 Bytes
RESO	Reserve 16 Bytes

## Examples:

```
bArr    resb    10   ;10 elements byte array
wArr    resw    50   ;50 elements word array
dArr    resd    25   ;25 elements double array
qArr    resq    15   ;15 elements quad array
```

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## SECTION .data

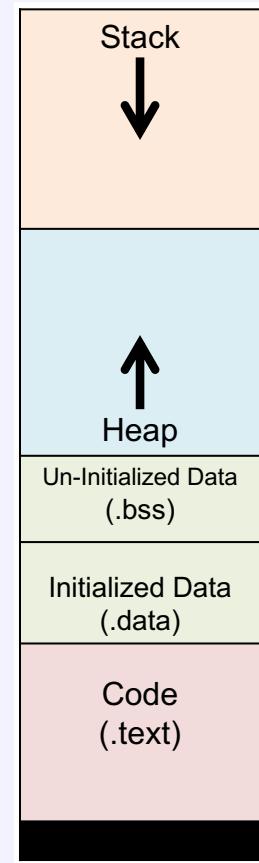
```
msg db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0xA
EXIT_STATUS equ 54
```

## SECTION .bss

;nothing here yet

## SECTION .text

```
global _start
_start:
;display a message on screen
    mov rax,1
    mov rdi,1
    mov rsi,msg
    mov rdx,26
    syscall
;exit the program
    mov rax,60
    mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS
    syscall
```



# Section .text

- The way a variable is a named memory location containing data, similarly a label is also a named memory location containing some instruction. Upon assembling, the assembler will replace all the occurrences of the label with the corresponding memory address. The text section will always include at least one label named **\_start** or **main**, that define the initial program entry point. The Linux linker **ld(1)**, expect the program entry point label with the name of **\_start**, while **gcc(1)** expect the program entry point label with the name of **main**
- The **global** directive is used to define a symbol, which is expected to be used by another module using the **extern** directive. The **extern** directive is used to declare a symbol which is not defined anywhere in the module being assembled, but is assumed to be defined in some other module

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## SECTION .data

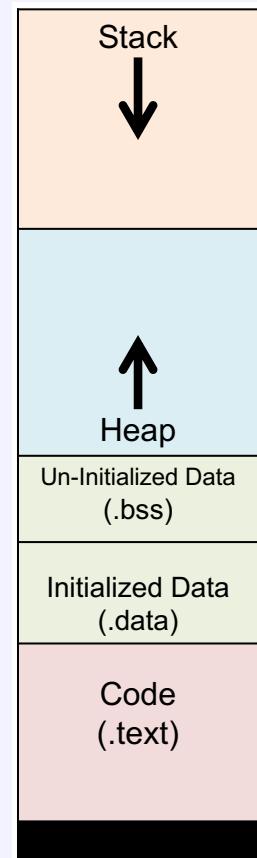
```
msg db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0xA
EXIT_STATUS equ 54
```

## SECTION .bss

```
;nothing here yet
```

## SECTION .text

```
global _start
_start:
;display a message on screen
    mov rax,1
    mov rdi,1
    mov rsi,msg
    mov rdx,26
    syscall
;exit the program
    mov rax,60
    mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS
    syscall
```



# mov Instruction

- The MOV instruction is used for moving data from one storage space to another
- The MOV instruction takes two operands and its general syntax is:

**MOV destination, source**

- Both the operands of MOV instruction should be of same size and the value of source operand remains unchanged
- The MOV instruction may have one of the following five forms –

**MOV register, immediate**

**MOV register, register**

**MOV register, memory**

**MOV memory, register**

**MOV memory, immediate**

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## SECTION .data

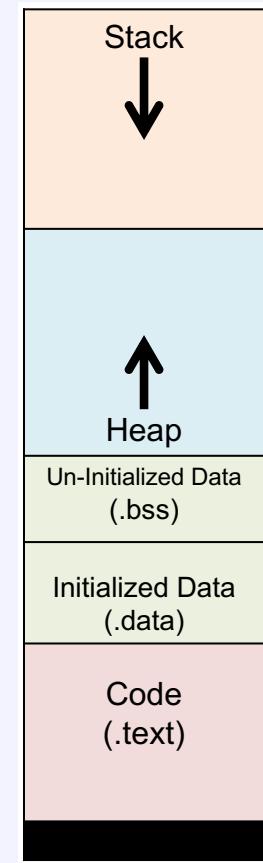
```
msg db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0xA  
EXIT_STATUS equ 54
```

## SECTION .bss

```
;nothing here yet
```

## SECTION .text

```
global _start  
  
_start:  
  
;display a message on screen  
    mov rax,1  
    mov rdi,1  
    mov rsi,msg  
    mov rdx,26  
    syscall  
  
;exit the program  
    mov rax,60  
    mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS  
    syscall
```



# syscall Instruction

- The two methods using which a program can request the operating system to perform a service like printing on screen or reading from keyboard and so on are:
  - By making a system call
  - By making a library call
- We will mostly be using the system call, which is a controlled entry point into the Operating System code, allowing a process to request the OS to perform a privileged operation

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## SECTION .data

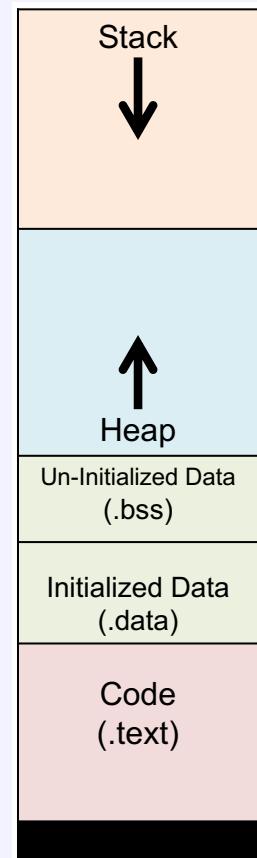
```
msg db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0xA  
EXIT_STATUS equ 54
```

## SECTION .bss

```
;nothing here yet
```

## SECTION .text

```
global _start  
  
_start:  
  
;display a message on screen  
    mov rax,1  
    mov rdi,1  
    mov rsi,msg  
    mov rdx,26  
    syscall  
  
;exit the program  
    mov rax,60  
    mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS  
    syscall
```



# syscall Instruction (cont...)

## List of available System Calls

- Every operating system has its own set of system calls and every system call has an associated ID
- On my Intel Core i7 CPU, running Kali Linux 5.3, there are a total of 433 system calls, whose IDs can be seen from the file `/usr/include/x86_64-linux-gnu/asm/unistd_64.h`

System Calls	ID
<code>read()</code>	0
<code>write()</code>	1
<code>open()</code>	2
<code>close()</code>	3
<code>getpid()</code>	39
<code>shutdown()</code>	48
<code>fork()</code>	47
<code>exit()</code>	60

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### SECTION .data

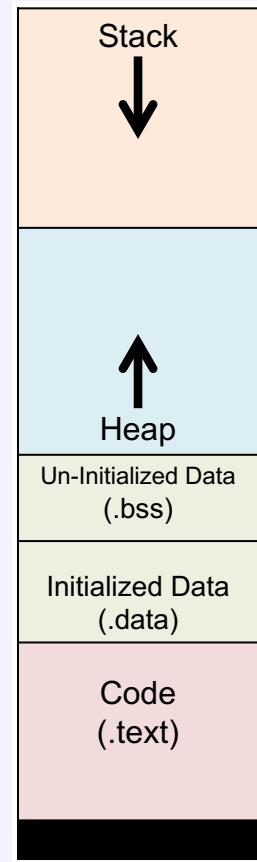
```
msg db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0xA
EXIT_STATUS equ 54
```

### SECTION .bss

```
;nothing here yet
```

### SECTION .text

```
global _start
_start:
;display a message on screen
    mov rax,1
    mov rdi,1
    mov rsi,msg
    mov rdx,26
    syscall
;exit the program
    mov rax,60
    mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS
    syscall
```



# syscall Instruction (cont...)

## How to make a System Call

- First of all depending on your architecture, you need to place the system call ID in an appropriate register

Architecture	Instruction	System call ID
x86_64	<b>syscall</b>	<b>rax</b>
80386	<b>int 0x80</b>	<b>eax</b>
ARM	<b>svc 0</b>	<b>r7</b>
ARM-64	<b>svc 0</b>	<b>x8</b>

- Next step is to place the system call arguments (if any) in appropriate register(s)

Architecture	arg1	arg2	arg3	arg4	arg5	arg6
x86_64	<b>rdi</b>	<b>rsi</b>	<b>rdx</b>	<b>r10</b>	<b>r8</b>	<b>r9</b>
80386	<b>ebx</b>	<b>ecx</b>	<b>edx</b>	<b>esi</b>	<b>edi</b>	<b>ebp</b>
ARM	<b>r0</b>	<b>r1</b>	<b>r2</b>	<b>r3</b>	<b>r4</b>	<b>r5</b>
ARM-64	<b>x0</b>	<b>x1</b>	<b>x2</b>	<b>x3</b>	<b>x4</b>	<b>x5</b>

- After the system call the return value can be found in **rax**, **eax**, **r7** and **r8** registers respectively for the above four architectures

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## SECTION .data

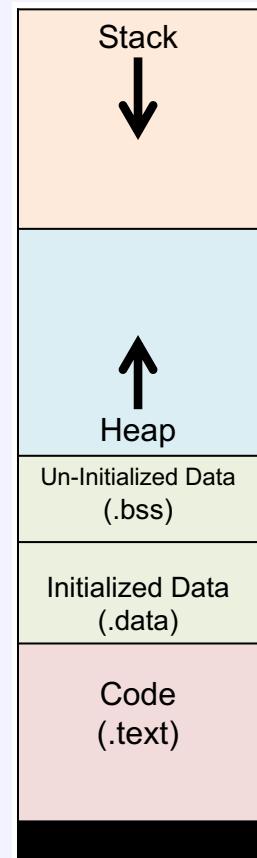
```
msg db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0xA
EXIT_STATUS equ 54
```

## SECTION .bss

```
;nothing here yet
```

## SECTION .text

```
global _start
_start:
;display a message on screen
    mov rax,1
    mov rdi,1
    mov rsi,msg
    mov rdx,26
    syscall
;exit the program
    mov rax,60
    mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS
    syscall
```



# syscall Instruction (cont...)

Architecture	ID	arg1	arg2	arg3	arg4	arg5	arg6
x86_64	rax	rdi	rsi	rdx	r10	r8	r9

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## SECTION .data

```
msg db "Learning is fun with Arif", 0xA
EXIT_STATUS equ 54
```

## SECTION .bss

;nothing here yet

## SECTION .text

global \_start

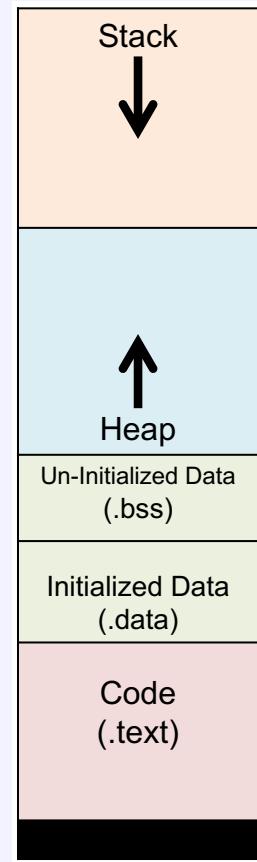
\_start:

;display a message on screen

```
mov rax,1
mov rdi,1
mov rsi,msg
mov rdx,26
syscall
```

;exit the program

```
mov rax,60
mov rdi, EXIT_STATUS
syscall
```



## How to Display a Message on Screen

```
int write(int fd, void *buf, int count);
```

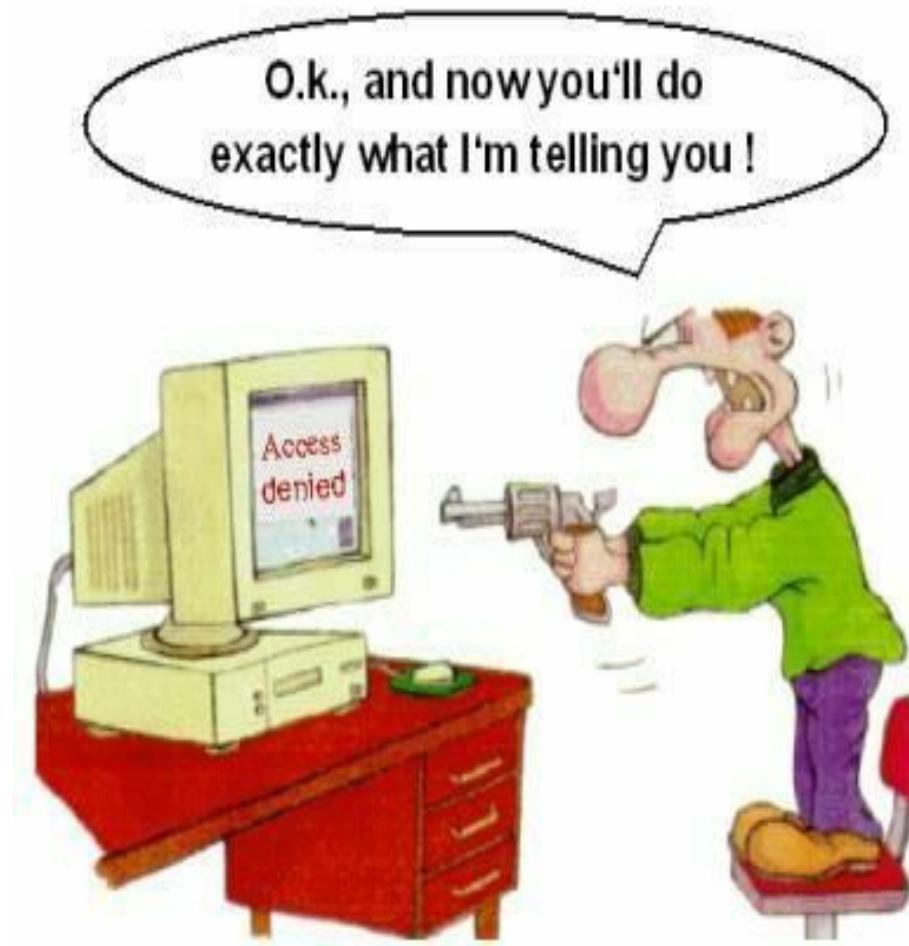
ID	rax	1
arg1 (file descriptor)	rdi	1
arg2 (address of string)	rsi	msg
arg3 (length of string)	rdx	26

## How to Terminate the Program

```
void exit(int status);
```

ID	rax	60
arg1 (exit status)	rdi	54

# Things To Do



**Coming to office hours does NOT mean you are academically week!**