

CS202

1. Attaching to a Debugger

1.1 Launch a process that is attached:

```
1 void launch_attached(const char* path,
2     char* const argv[]) {
3     int pid = fork();
4     if (pid == 0) {
5         ptrace(PTRACE_TRACEME, 0, NULL, NULL);
6         execv(path, argv);
7     }
8     return pid;
9 }
```

1.2 Attach to a running process

```
1 void attach_to_process(pid_t pid) {
2     ptrace(PTRACE_ATTACH, pid, NULL, NULL);
3 }
```

1.3 Continue execution once attached

```
1 void continue_once_attached(pid_t pid) {
2     while (1) {
3         int status;
4         waitpid(pid, &status);
5         if (WIFSTOPPED(status)) {
6             // The reason for the change
7             // was that pid stopped.
8
9             // We should have stopped because of
10            // either SIGTRAP and SIGSTOP.
11            assert(WSTOPSIG(status) == SIGTRAP
12                || WSTOPSIG(status) == SIGSTOP);
13
14            // Continue execution
15            ptrace(PTRACE_CONT, pid, NULL, NULL);
16            break;
17        } else if (WIFEXITED(status)) {
18            // The process exited before we could
19            // attach.
20            printf("Process exited\n");
21            break;
22        }
23    }
24 }
```

2. Interrupting the running thread

```
1 void interrupt(pid_t pid) {
2     kill(pid, SIGSTOP);
3     // Must use waitpid in order to
4     // wait for the signal to be
5     // delivered.
6 }
```

3. Other ptrace commands

All of these only make sense when the target process is stopped, for instance due to the use of `interrupt` from above.

```
1 // Execute a single instruction in the process.
2 ptrace(PTRACE_SINGLESTEP, pid, NULL, NULL);
3
4 // Get non-floating point registers.
5 // This includes rsp, rip, rbp, etc.
6 struct user_regs_struct regs;
7 ptrace(PTRACE_GETREGS, pid, &regs, NULL);
8
9 // Get floating point registers.
10 struct user_fpregs_struct fpregs;
11 ptrace(PTRACE_GETFPREGS, pid, &fpregs, NULL);
12
13 // Set registers. This can be used to update
14 // register values.
15 ptrace(PTRACE_SETREGS, pid, &regs, NULL);
16
```

```
17 // Note: PTRACE_PEEKUSER and PTRACE_POKEUSER
18 // provide a more efficient way to read or
19 // write a single register.
20
21 // Read a word (8 bytes) from address `addr`
22 // in target process memory. Note, despite being
23 // called PTRACE_PEEKDATA, on Linux this can
24 // read any part of memory, including the
25 // text segment.
26 uint64_t val;
27 val = ptrace(PTRACE_PEEKDATA, pid, addr, NULL);
28
29 // Write a word (8 byte) to address `addr` in
30 // target process memory.
31 ptrace(PTRACE_POKEDATA, pid, addr, val);
32
33 // Get information on the signal that caused
34 // the target process to stop.
35 siginfo_t sinfo;
36 ptrace(PTRACE_GETSIGINFO, pid, &sinfo, NULL);
```

4. Stack Frames and Unwinding

