Task scheduling in real-time systems is to determine an execution order such that all tasks can meet the corresponding deadlines. To do this, we often need an estimate of the worst-case execution time (WCET) and then reserve that amount of CPU time accordingly. An overrun occurs if the real execution time exceeds the estimate WCET. When it is undetected, subsequent tasks may miss their deadline as a consequence of overspending CPU time. One solution to the task overrun problem is to lower the priority of the overrunning task once it consumes the reserved CPU time and only execute it in the background mode. **This requires a measurement of task execution time at run time.**

In real-time systems, a task may be preempted (by high priority tasks) or blocked (due to unavailable resources locked by low priority tasks). The measurement of execution time at user application level is difficult, since we cannot predict the instances of preemption and blocking. On the other hand, it can be done easily at kernel level. As shown in the following diagram, a task is created, dispatched to run, switched off to waiting or ready state, and deleted (terminated). The measurement of execution time can be done once we mark the instances it is dispatched and accumulate the time it has spent when it is switched off or terminated.

**vxWorks allows user tasks to add callback functions (hooks) to kernel at the instances of task creation, task deletion, and context switching.**

**What you will do in the assignment:**

1. You need to develop a task set where tasks in the task set implements different sorting algorithms (in ascending order): heap sort, selection sort and insertion sorting (finding the minimum one at every iteration) on a given string.
2. Include the text.h in your project. The string srcString is the source to be sorted. Sort letters (a~z, A~Z) only. The content of the string will be different in grading, but the name remains unchanged.
3. Add vxWorks hooks for task execution time measurement. Feel free to add any tasks to make the above operations more convenient. Assign the tasks with reasonable priorities to create preemptions and report the preemptions.
4. Report the accumulated execution times of terminated tasks (the execution times should be printed out on console, and a host task should be developed to inquire the task execution time measured at the target.
Relevant vxWorks facilities for this project

- You can find the software on SOME of the computers in PGH533.
- Delete the folder c:\users\...\workbench... if you get error prompt. It may solve some of them. More errors may be encountered and needs help from IT administrators. Therefore it is critical to back up your work and start earlier.

The vxWorks' libraries are more than the followings for the given purpose and of course you're not restricted to use just those. They are listed to give you a basic idea for the project.

- Generating tasks: taskSpawn() with task's name, a priority, etc., as arguments can be used to create new task.
- Delaying tasks: taskDelay() or nanosleep() may be used to put a task into the delayed state. Checking an execution time: You may need to handle a timer or times to measure the execution time. However, a simple way would be using tickSet() and tickGet() to check time elapse.
- Tracking the execution time of a task: There are diverse ideas regarding how to keep track of the execution time for a task which is preempted multiple times. One could be to use VxWorks' task hooks which allow additional routines to be invoked whenever a task is created, switched and deleted. Those libraries are taskCreateHookAdd(), taskCreateHookDelete(), taskSwitchHookAdd(), taskSwitchHookDelete(), taskDeleteHookAdd(), taskDeleteHookDelete() etc. that are included in taskHookLib. You must be careful to use hook routines since there is a limit of facilities that can be called in Hook routines.
- TCB(Task Control Block) which keeps a context of a task has spare fields for these extensions. TCB's data structure is defined in taskLib.h.

Reading References

- Reading A quick intro to Wind River Workbench development environment would be a great help to start this project.
- Refer to TaskHookLib Document to get used to callback functions.
- All these manuals can be accessed through Wind River Workbench’s HELP menu.

You report should contain:

1. Listing of your source code (including measurement and reporting facility, and test case).
2. Explicit description of your design and the criteria used to decide if the design works correctly. Be careful and comprehensive.
3. The report of task execution time. Turn in a hardcopy of your listing and any description. Also, you need to email a zipped file to xzou@uh.edu. The zipped file should contain all files and subdirectories in your project directory. Make sure to name your zipped file as following format: FIRST NAME_LAST NAME_COSC6384_Assignment2.zip