

CS 321 Operating Systems, Spring 2013
Quiz 1 Solutions

Quiz 1 was given in class on Friday, February 8, 2013.

1. [5 pts total]

1a. What is a "race condition"?

A race condition is when scheduling decisions affect the correctness of a program.

1b. What is a "data race"?

A data race is when two threads access the same data simultaneously, either one reading and one writing, or both writing.

1c. Which of these is easier to deal with? Describe one effective way of dealing with the easier of the two.

Data races are easier to deal with. One way of dealing with them is to regulate access to the shared data using a mutex. Lock just before each access, and unlock just after.