
Contents

1	<i>Capability- and Object-Based System Concepts</i>	1
	Capability-Based Systems	3
	<i>Memory Addressing in Computer Systems</i>	5
	<i>The Context of an Address</i>	9
	<i>Protection in Computer Systems</i>	10
	The Object-Based Approach	13
	<i>Capabilities and Object-Based Systems</i>	15
	Summary	17
	For Further Reading	18
2	<i>Early Descriptor Architectures</i>	21
	Introduction	21
	The Burroughs B5000	22
	The Rice University Computer	25
	The Basic Language Machine	30
	Discussion	34
	For Further Reading	38
3	<i>Early Capability Architectures</i>	41
	Introduction	41
	Dennis and Van Horn's Supervisor	41
	The MIT PDP-1 Timesharing System	47
	The Chicago Magic Number Machine	48
	The CAL-TSS System	52
	Discussion	57
	For Further Reading	61
4	<i>The Plessey System</i>	250
	Introduction	65

	System Overview	66
	Capability Addressing	66
	Capability Register Usage	69
	Inform and Outform Capabilities	69
	Instructions and Addressing	71
	Protected Procedure Calls	72
	Operating System Resource Management	73
	Input and Output	74
	Discussion	75
	For Further Reading	77
5	<i>The Cambridge CAP Computer</i>	79
	Introduction	79
	Hardware Overview	79
	CAP Process Structure	80
	CAP Addressing Overview	81
	Capabilities and Virtual Addresses	83
	Process Data Structures	85
	Memory Address Evaluation	86
	Subprocess Creation	87
	The Capability Unit	89
	Protected Procedures	90
	Long-Term Storage and Long-Term Names	95
	Discussion	96
	For Further Reading	99
6	<i>The Hydra System</i>	103
	Introduction	103
	Hydra Overview	103
	Hydra Objects and Types	105
	Processes, Procedures, and Local Name Spaces	107
	Hydra Operations	109
	Capabilities and Rights	111
	Supporting Protected Subsystems	113
	<i>Templates</i>	113
	<i>Typecalls</i>	116
	Hydra Object Storage System	116
	Capability Representation	120
	Reference Counts and Garbage Collection	121
	Discussion	122
	For Further Reading	125
7	<i>The STAROS System</i>	127
	Overview of STAROS	127
	STAROS Object Support	129

STAROS Capabilities	130	
Object Addressing	131	
STAROS Abstract Type Management	133	
Discussion	134	
For Further Reading	135	
8 <i>The IBM System/38</i>		137
Introduction	137	
System Objects	139	
Object Addressing	141	
<i>Virtual Memory</i>	141	
<i>Pointers</i>	142	
<i>Contexts</i>	144	
<i>Physical Address Mapping</i>	145	
Profiles and Authority	147	
<i>Authority/Pointer Resolution</i>	148	
Programs/Procedures	150	
<i>The Instruction Stream</i>	151	
<i>Program Activation and Invocation</i>	152	
<i>Protected Procedures</i>	153	
Special Privileges	154	
Discussion	154	
For Further Reading	157	
9 <i>The Intel iAPX 432</i>		159
Introduction	159	
Segments and Objects	161	
Object Addressing	163	
<i>Object Descriptors</i>	163	
<i>Access Descriptors</i>	165	
Program Execution	167	
<i>Domains and Instruction Objects</i>	168	
<i>Procedure Call and Context Objects</i>	169	
<i>Instruction Operand Addressing</i>	171	
<i>Context Allocation</i>	172	
<i>Parameter Passing</i>	173	
Abstraction Support	173	
<i>Domains and Refinements</i>	174	
<i>Creation of Typed Objects</i>	176	
<i>Programmer-Defined Types</i>	177	
Storage Resources	179	
Instructions	182	
Discussion	184	
For Further Reading	186	

10	<i>Issues in Capability-Based Architectures</i>	187
	Introduction	187
	Segmentation	188
	Storage of Capabilities	189
	Capability Representation	191
	Objects	195
	Protected Procedures and Type Extension	196
	Object Lifetimes and Garbage Collection	197
	Object Locking	201
	Revocation	202
	Conclusions	203
	<i>Capability and Object System Bibliography</i>	205
	<i>Index</i>	217

Figures

1-1.	A Capability	3
1-2.	Conventional Segment Address Translation	6
1-3.	Capability Register Addressing	7
1-4.	System Object Access Matrix	11
1-5.	Access Control and Capability Lists	11
2-1.	B5000 Program Reference Table	23
2-2.	B5000 Descriptor Formats	24
2-3.	Rice University Computer Codeword Format	27
2-4.	Rice University Computer Memory Organization	29
2-5.	Example of BLM Numeric Formats	32
2-6.	Basic Language Machine Addressing	33
2-7.	BLM Address and Codeword Formats	34
3-1.	Processes, Computations, and C-lists	43
3-2.	Protected Procedure Protection Spheres	46
3-3.	Chicago Magic Number Machine Linkage Segment	52
3-4.	CAL-TSS Object Addressing	55
4-1.	Plessey System 250 Capability Formats	67
4-2.	Plessey System 250 Capability Loading	68
4-3.	System 250 Instruction Formats	71
4-4.	Protected Procedure Resource Subsystem	74
5-1.	CAP Process Hierarchy	81
5-2.	CAP Process Addressing	82
5-3.	CAP Capability and Access Rights Formats	83
5-4.	CAP Virtual Address	84
5-5.	CAP PRL Entry	85
5-6.	CAP Process Base	86

- 5-7. Capability Unit Register Format 89
- 5-8. CAP Capability Unit 91
- 5-9. CAP Enter Capability and Enter PRL Formats 92
- 5-10. CAP Protected Object Implementation 94
- 6-1. Hydra Object and Type Object 106
- 6-2. Hydra Type Hierarchy 108
- 6-3. Hydra Capability 111
- 6-4. Hydra Procedure Call 115
- 6-5. Hydra TypeCall 117
- 6-6. Active Fixed Part Directory 119
- 6-7. Hydra Capability Formats 121
- 7-1. A CM* Cluster 128
- 7-2. STAROS Capability and Capability Rights Word 130
- 7-3. STAROS Object Descriptor Format 132
- 7-4. STAROS Directory Structure 133
- 8-1. System/38 Implementation Layers 138
- 8-2. IBM System/38 System Object 140
- 8-3. System/38 Virtual Address 142
- 8-4. System/38 Virtual Address Translation 146
- 8-5. System/38 Example High-level Instruction 152
- 9-1. Intel iAPX 432 Structure 160
- 9-2. Intel 432 Segment 161
- 9-3. Intel 432 Storage Segment Descriptor 163
- 9-4. Intel 432 Access Descriptor 165
- 9-5. Intel 432 Address Translation 167
- 9-6. Intel 432 Domain and Instruction Objects 168
- 9-7. Intel 432 Context Object Representation 170
- 9-8. Intel 432 Access Selector Formats 172
- 9-9. Intel 432 Parameter Passing 174
- 9-10. Intel 432 Domain Refinement 175
- 9-11. Intel 432 Type Control Object Data Part 176
- 9-12. Intel 432 Dynamic Object Addressing 178
- 9-13. Intel 432 Storage Resource Object 179
- 9-14. Intel 432 Instruction Format 182
- 9-15. Intel 432 Reference Format 183

Tables

- 1-1. Major Descriptor and Capability Systems 2
- 3-1. Dennis and Van Horn Supervisor Capability Operations 44
- 3-2. Chicago Magic Number Supervisor Capability Operations 51

Contents

- 6-1. Hydra Kernel-Implemented Types 107
- 6-2. Generic Object and Capability Operations 110
- 6-3. Capability and Generic Object Access Rights 111
- 6-4. Hydra Active and Passive Fixed Parts 118
- 7-1. STAROS Representation Types 129
- 7-2. STAROS Capability Types 131
- 8-1. System/38 System Object Types 139
- 8-2. System/38 Pointer Instructions 144
- 8-3. System/38 Context Instructions 145
- 8-4. System/38 Authority Management Instructions 149
- 9-1. Intel 432 System Object Types 162
- 9-2. Intel 432 Storage Segment Descriptor Fields 164
- 9-3. Intel 432 Access Descriptor Instructions 166