

# The Art of Workload Selection

Raj Jain

Washington University in Saint Louis

Saint Louis, MO 63130

Jain@cse.wustl.edu

These slides are available on-line at:

<http://www.cse.wustl.edu/~jain/cse567-13/>



- ❑ Services Exercised
  - Example: Timesharing Systems
  - Example: Networks
  - Example: Magnetic Tape Backup System
- ❑ Level of Detail
- ❑ Representativeness
- ❑ Timeliness
- ❑ Other Considerations in Workload Selection

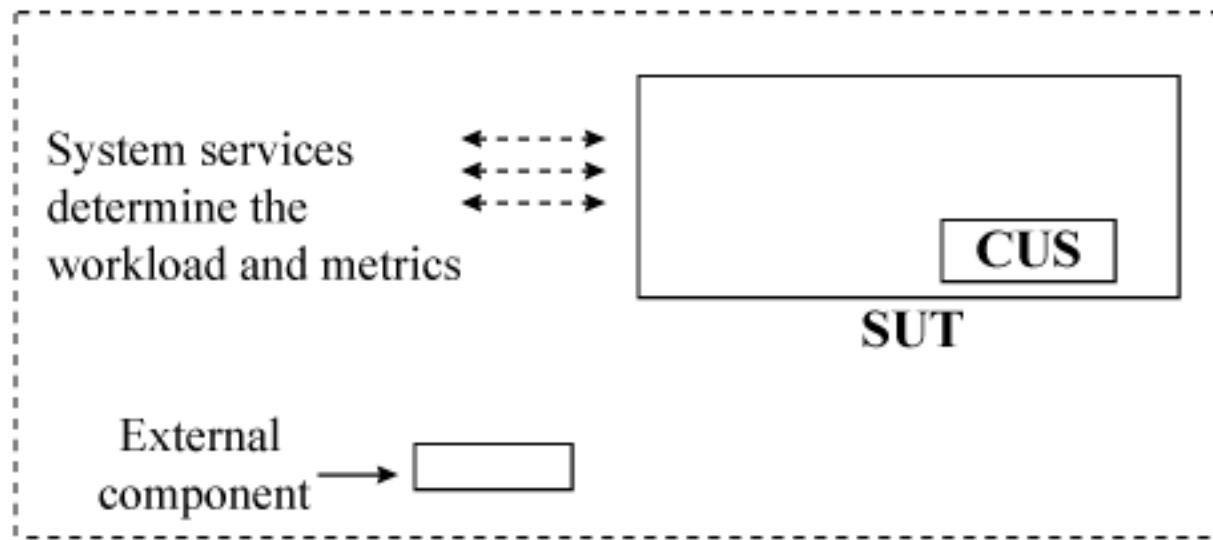
# The Art of Workload Selection

## Considerations:

- Services exercised
- Level of detail
- Loading level
- Impact of other components
- Timeliness

# Services Exercised

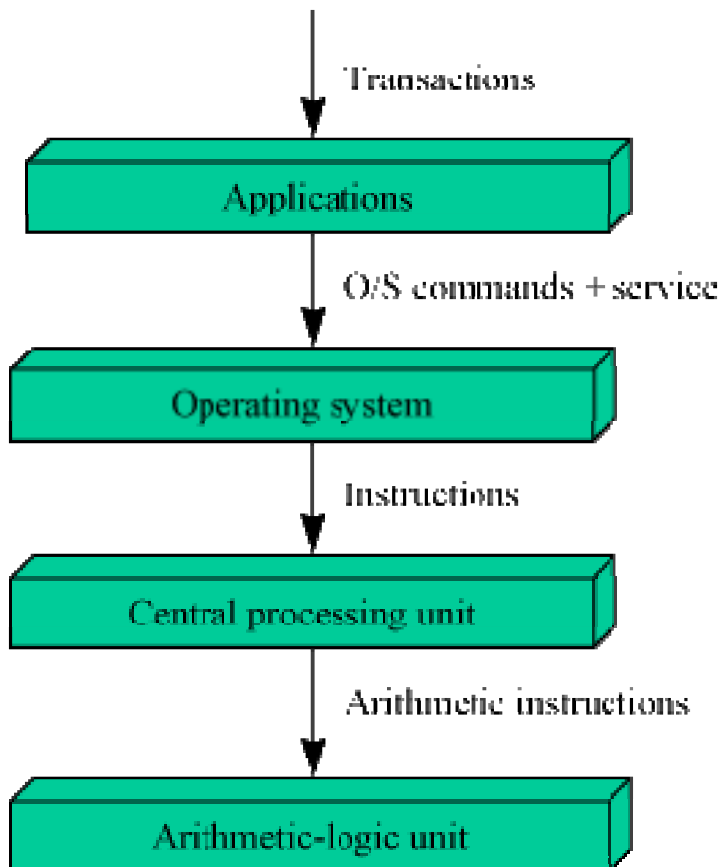
- ❑ SUT = System Under Test
- ❑ CUS = Component Under Study



## Services Exercised (Cont)

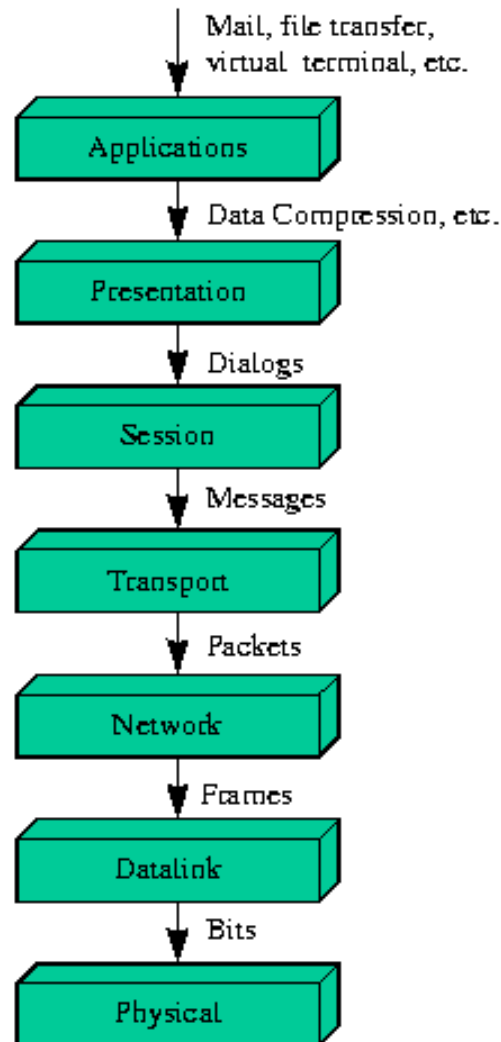
- ❑ Do not confuse SUT w CUS
- ❑ Metrics depend upon SUT: MIPS is ok for two CPUs but not for two timesharing systems.
- ❑ Workload: depends upon the system.
- ❑ Examples:
  - CPU: instructions
  - System: Transactions
  - Transactions not good for CPU and vice versa
  - Two systems identical except for CPU
    - ❑ Comparing Systems: Use transactions
    - ❑ Comparing CPUs: Use instructions
  - Multiple services: Exercise as complete a set of services as possible.

# Example: Timesharing Systems



- Applications  
⇒ Application benchmark
- Operating System  
⇒ Synthetic Program
- Central Processing Unit  
⇒ Instruction Mixes
- Arithmetic Logical Unit  
⇒ Addition instruction

# Example: Networks



# Level of Detail

- ❑ Most frequent request:
  - Examples: Addition Instruction, Debit-Credit, Kernels
  - Valid if one service is much more frequent than others
- ❑ Frequency of request types
  - Examples: Instruction mixes
  - Context sensitivity  $\Rightarrow$  Use set of services
  - History-sensitive mechanisms (caching)  $\Rightarrow$  Context sensitivity
- ❑ Time-stamped sequence of requests
  - May be too detailed
  - Not convenient for analytical modeling
  - May require exact reproduction of component behavior



## Level of Detail (Cont)

- ❑ Average resource demand
  - Used for analytical modeling
  - Grouped similar services in classes
- ❑ Distribution of resource demands
  - Used if variance is large
  - Used if the distribution impacts the performance
- ❑ Workload used in simulation and analytical modeling:
  - Non executable: Used in analytical/simulation modeling
  - Executable workload: can be executed directly on a system

# Representativeness

The test workload and real workload should have the same:

- ❑ Elapsed Time
- ❑ Resource Demands
- ❑ Resource Usage Profile: Sequence and the amounts in which different resources are used.

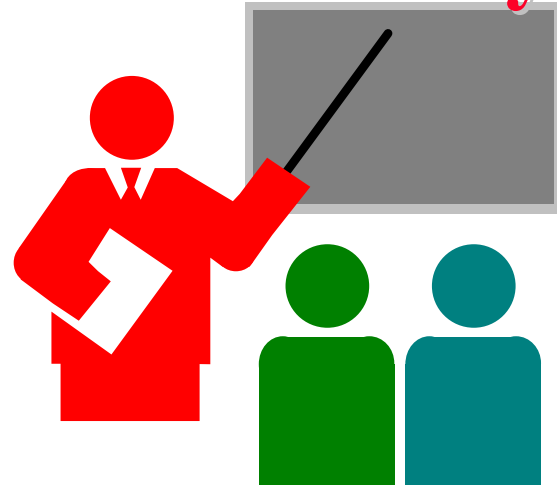
# Timeliness

- ❑ Users are a moving target.
- ❑ New systems  $\Rightarrow$  new workloads
- ❑ Users tend to optimize the demand.
- ❑ Fast multiplication  $\Rightarrow$  Higher frequency of multiplication instructions.
- ❑ Important to monitor user behavior on an ongoing basis.

## Other Considerations in Workload Selection

- ❑ Loading Level: A workload may exercise a system to its:
  - Full capacity (best case)
  - Beyond its capacity (worst case)
  - At the load level observed in real workload (typical case).
  - For procurement purposes  $\Rightarrow$  Typical
  - For design  $\Rightarrow$  best to worst, all cases
- ❑ Impact of External Components:
  - Do not use a workload that makes external component a bottleneck  $\Rightarrow$  All alternatives in the system give equally good performance.
- ❑ Repeatability

# Summary



- ❑ Services exercised determine the workload
- ❑ Level of detail of the workload should match that of the model being used
- ❑ Workload should be representative of the real systems usage in recent past
- ❑ Loading level, impact of external components, and repeatability or other criteria in workload selection

# Homework 5: Exercise 5.1

- What metric and workload would you choose to compare:
  - a. Two systems with similar functionality: IBM PC versus MAC
  - b. Two systems for very different applications: PC versus Workstations
  - c. Two systems with identical functionality: IBM PC versus Dell PC
  - d. Two versions of the same operating systems: Windows 98 vs Windows XP
  - e. Two hardware components: Two floppy drives
  - f. Two languages: C vs. Pascal

One metric and one workload is sufficient