Lecture 12: Memory Management

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Background

- Program must be brought (from disk) into memory and placed within a process for it to be run

- Main memory and registers are only storage CPU can access directly

- Memory unit only sees a stream of addresses + read requests, or address + data and write requests

- Register access in one CPU clock (or less)

- Main memory can take many cycles

- **Cache** sits between main memory and CPU registers

- Protection of memory required to ensure correct operation
Base and Limit Registers

- A pair of **base** and **limit** registers define the logical address space
Address Binding

- Inconvenient not to have first address always at 0000
  - How can it not be?

- Further, addresses represented in different ways at different stages of a program’s life
  - Source code addresses usually symbolic
  - Compiled code addresses `bind` to relocatable addresses
    - i.e. “14 bytes from beginning of this module”
  - Linker or loader will bind relocatable addresses to absolute addresses
    - i.e. 74014
  - Each binding maps one address space to another
Binding of Instructions and Data to Memory

• Address binding of instructions and data to memory addresses can happen at three different stages
  • **Compile time**: If memory location known a priori, **absolute code** can be generated; must recompile code if starting location changes
  • **Load time**: Must generate **relocatable code** if memory location is not known at compile time
  • **Execution time**: Binding delayed until run time if the process can be moved during its execution from one memory segment to another
    • Need hardware support for address maps (e.g., base and limit registers)
Logical vs. Physical Address Space

• The concept of a logical address space that is bound to a separate **physical address space** is central to proper memory management
  
  • **Logical address** – generated by the CPU; also referred to as **virtual address**
  
  • **Physical address** – address seen by the memory unit

• Logical and physical addresses are the same in compile-time and load-time address-binding schemes; logical (virtual) and physical addresses differ in execution-time address-binding scheme
  
  • **Logical address space** is the set of all logical addresses generated by a program
  
  • **Physical address space** is the set of all physical addresses generated by a program
Memory-Management Unit (MMU)

- Hardware device that at run time maps virtual to physical address
- Many methods possible, covered in the rest of this chapter

- To start, consider simple scheme where the value in the relocation register is added to every address generated by a user process at the time it is sent to memory
  - Base register now called relocation register
  - MS-DOS on Intel 80x86 used 4 relocation registers

- The user program deals with logical addresses; it never sees the real physical addresses
  - Execution-time binding occurs when reference is made to location in memory
  - Logical address bound to physical addresses
Dynamic relocation using a relocation register

![Diagram showing dynamic relocation using a relocation register. The diagram includes a CPU, a relocation register, an MMU, and memory, with logical and physical addresses.]
Contiguous Allocation

• Main memory usually into two partitions:
  • Resident operating system, usually held in low memory with interrupt vector
  • User processes then held in high memory
  • Each process contained in single contiguous section of memory

• Relocation registers used to protect user processes from each other, and from changing operating-system code and data
  • Base register contains value of smallest physical address
  • Limit register contains range of logical addresses – each logical address must be less than the limit register
  • MMU maps logical address *dynamically*
  • Can then allow actions such as kernel code being *transient* and kernel changing size
Hardware Support for Relocation and Limit Registers
Contiguous Allocation (Cont.)

- Multiple-partition allocation
  - Degree of multiprogramming limited by number of partitions
  - Slot – block of available memory; slots of various size are scattered throughout memory
  - When a process arrives, it is allocated memory from a slot large enough to accommodate it
  - Process exiting frees its partition, adjacent free partitions combined
  - Operating system maintains information about:
    a) allocated partitions   b) free partitions (slot)
Dynamic Storage-Allocation Problem

How to satisfy a request of size $n$ from a list of free slots?

- **First-fit**: Allocate the *first* slot that is big enough

- **Best-fit**: Allocate the *smallest* slot that is big enough; must search entire list, unless ordered by size
  - Produces the smallest leftover slot

- **Worst-fit**: Allocate the *largest* slot; must also search entire list
  - Produces the largest leftover slot

First-fit and best-fit better than worst-fit in terms of speed and storage utilization
Swapping

- A process can be swapped temporarily out of memory to a backing store, and then brought back into memory for continued execution
  - Total physical memory space of processes can exceed physical memory
- **Backing store** – fast disk large enough to accommodate copies of all memory images for all users; must provide direct access to these memory images
- **Roll out, roll in** – swapping variant used for priority-based scheduling algorithms; lower-priority process is swapped out so higher-priority process can be loaded and executed
- Major part of swap time is transfer time; total transfer time is directly proportional to the amount of memory swapped
- System maintains a **ready queue** of ready-to-run processes which have memory images on disk
- Does the swapped out process need to swap back in to same physical addresses?
  - Depends on address binding method
    - Plus consider pending I/O to / from process memory space
- Modified versions of swapping are found on many systems (i.e., UNIX, Linux, and Windows)
  - Swapping normally disabled
  - Started if more than threshold amount of memory allocated
  - Disabled again once memory demand reduced below threshold
Schematic View of Swapping

1. swap out
2. swap in
Context Switch Time including Swapping

• If next processes to be put on CPU is not in memory, need to swap out a process and swap in target process
• Context switch time can then be very high
• 100MB process swapping to hard disk with transfer rate of 50MB/sec
  • Plus disk latency of 8 ms
  • Swap out time of 2008 ms
  • Plus swap in of same sized process
  • Total context switch swapping component time of 4016ms (> 4 seconds)
• Can reduce if reduce size of memory swapped – by knowing how much memory really being used
  • System calls to inform OS of memory use via request memory and release memory
Fragmentation

- **External Fragmentation** – total memory space exists to satisfy a request, but it is not contiguous

- **Internal Fragmentation** – allocated memory may be slightly larger than requested memory; this size difference is memory internal to a partition, but not being used

- First fit analysis reveals that given $N$ blocks allocated, 0.5 $N$ blocks lost to fragmentation
  - 1/3 may be unusable -> **50-percent rule**
Fragmentation (Cont.)

- Reduce external fragmentation by **compaction**
  - Shuffle memory contents to place all free memory together in one large block
  - Compaction is possible *only* if relocation is dynamic, and is done at execution time
- I/O problem
  - Latch job in memory while it is involved in I/O
  - Do I/O only into OS buffers

- Now consider that backing store has same fragmentation problems

- But, fragmentation becomes a big problem in long-running systems