VIRTUAL MEMORY

Chapter 9: Virtual Memory

- Background
- Demand Paging
- Copy-on-Write
- Page Replacement
- Allocation of Frames
- Thrashing
- Memory-Mapped Files
- Allocating Kernel Memory
- Other Considerations
- Operating-System Examples

Objectives

- To describe the benefits of a virtual memory system
- To explain the concepts of demand paging, pagereplacement algorithms, and allocation of page frames
- To discuss the principle of the working-set model
- To examine the relationship between shared memory and memory-mapped files
- To explore how kernel memory is managed

Background

- Code needs to be in memory to execute, but entire program rarely used
 - Error code, unusual routines, large data structures
- Entire program code not needed at same time
- Consider ability to execute partially-loaded program
 - Program no longer constrained by limits of physical memory
 - Each program takes less memory while running → more programs run at the same time
 - Increased CPU utilization and throughput with no increase in response time or turnaround time
 - Less I/O needed to load or swap programs into memory → each user program runs faster

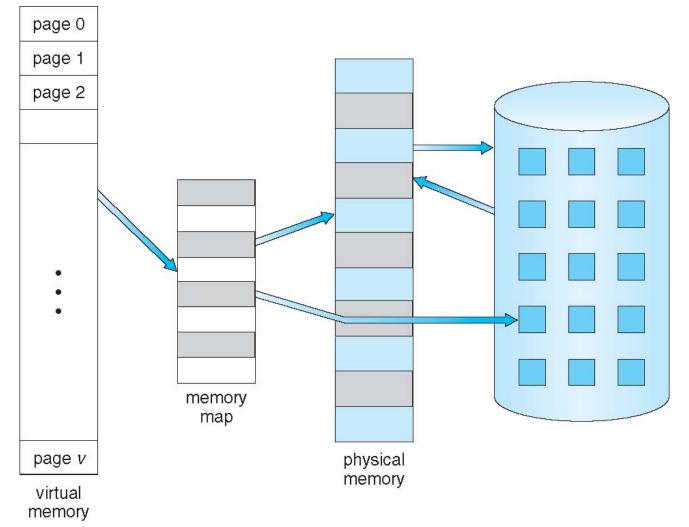
Background (Cont.)

- Virtual memory separation of user logical memory from physical memory
 - Only part of the program needs to be in memory for execution
 - Logical address space can therefore be much larger than physical address space
 - Allows address spaces to be shared by several processes
 - Allows for more efficient process creation
 - More programs running concurrently
 - Less I/O needed to load or swap processes

Background (Cont.)

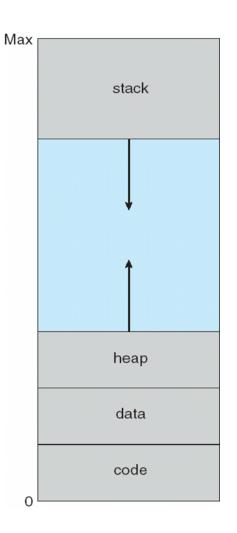
- Virtual address space logical view of how process is stored in memory
 - Usually start at address 0, contiguous addresses until end of space
 - Meanwhile, physical memory organized in page frames
 - MMU must map logical to physical
- Virtual memory can be implemented via:
 - Demand paging
 - Demand segmentation

Virtual Memory That is Larger Than Physical Memory

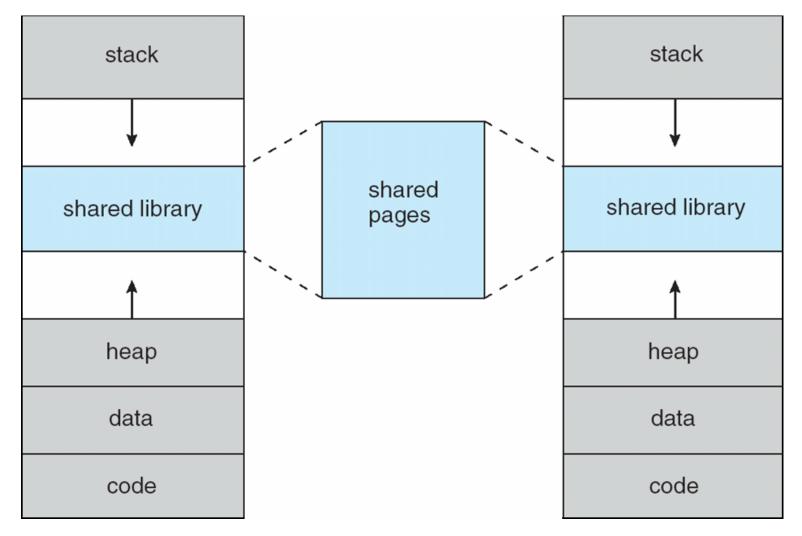


Virtual-address Space

- Usually design logical address space for stack to start at Max logical address and grow "down" while heap grows "up"
 - Maximizes address space use
 - Unused address space between the two is hole
 - No physical memory needed until heap or stack grows to a given new page
- Enables sparse address spaces with holes left for growth, dynamically linked libraries, etc
- System libraries shared via mapping into virtual address space
- Shared memory by mapping pages read-write into virtual address space
- Pages can be shared during fork(), speeding process creation

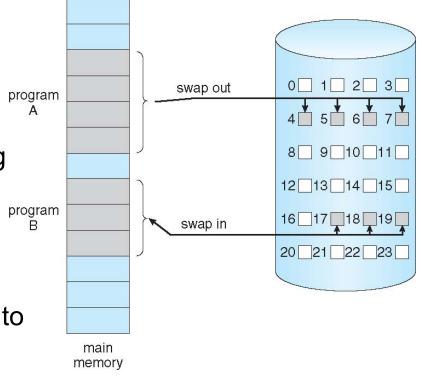


Shared Library Using Virtual Memory



Demand Paging

- Could bring entire process into memory at load time
- Or bring a page into memory only when it is needed
 - Less I/O needed, no unnecessary I/O
 - Less memory needed
 - Faster response
 - More users
- Similar to paging system with swapping (diagram on right)
- Page is needed \Rightarrow reference to it
 - invalid reference ⇒ abort
 - not-in-memory ⇒ bring to memory
- Lazy swapper never swaps a page into memory unless page will be needed
 - Swapper that deals with pages is a pager



Basic Concepts

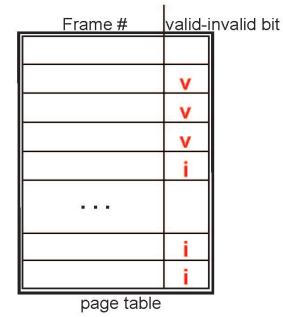
- With swapping, pager guesses which pages will be used before swapping out again
- Instead, pager brings in only those pages into memory
- How to determine that set of pages?
 - Need new MMU functionality to implement demand paging
- If pages needed are already memory resident
 - No difference from non demand-paging
- If page needed and not memory resident
 - Need to detect and load the page into memory from storage
 - Without changing program behavior
 - Without programmer needing to change code

Valid-Invalid Bit

- With each page table entry a valid—invalid bit is associated
 - $v \Rightarrow$ in-memory memory resident

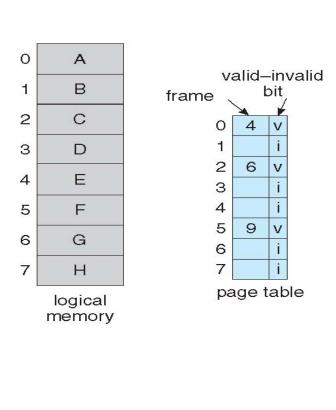
 $i \Rightarrow$ not-in-memory

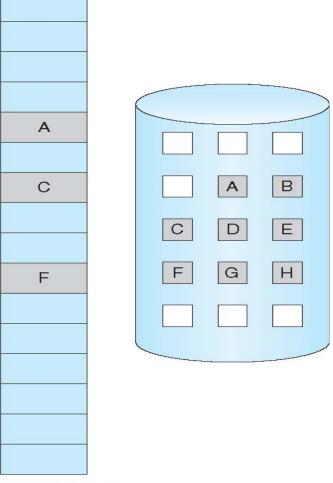
- Initially valid—invalid bit is set to i on all entries
- Example of a page table snapshot:



Page Table When Some Pages Are Not in Main Memory

З



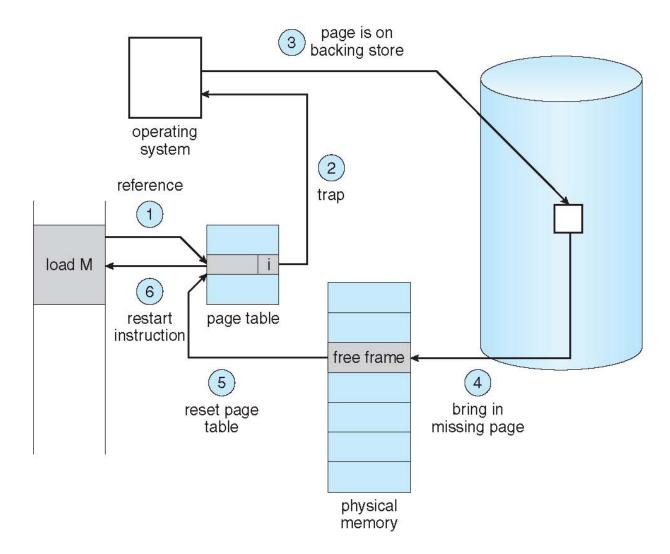


physical memory

Page Fault

- If there is a reference to a page, first reference to that page will trap to operating system: page fault
- Operating system looks at another table to decide:
 - Invalid reference \Rightarrow abort
 - Just not in memory
- Find free frame
- Swap page into frame via scheduled disk operation
- Reset tables to indicate page now in memory Set validation bit = v
- Restart the instruction that caused the page fault

Steps in Handling a Page Fault

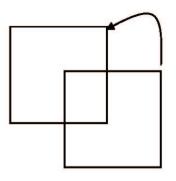


Aspects of Demand Paging

- Extreme case start process with no pages in memory
 - OS sets instruction pointer to first instruction of process, nonmemory-resident → page fault
 - And for every other process pages on first access
 - Pure demand paging
- Actually, a given instruction could access multiple pages
 → multiple page faults
 - Consider fetch and decode of instruction which adds 2 numbers from memory and stores result back to memory
 - Pain decreased because of locality of reference
- Hardware support needed for demand paging
 - Page table with valid / invalid bit
 - Secondary memory (swap device with swap space)
 - Instruction restart

Instruction Restart

- Consider an instruction that could access several different locations
 - block move



- Restart the whole operation?
 - What if source and destination overlap?

Performance of Demand Paging

- Stages in Demand Paging (worse case)
 - 1. Trap to the operating system
 - 2. Save the user registers and process state
 - 3. Determine that the interrupt was a page fault
 - 4. Check that the page reference was legal and determine the location of the page on the disk
 - 5. Issue a read from the disk to a free frame:
 - a. Wait in a queue for this device until the read request is serviced
 - b. Wait for the device seek and/or latency time
 - c. Begin the transfer of the page to a free frame
 - 6. While waiting, allocate the CPU to some other user
 - 7. Receive an interrupt from the disk I/O subsystem (I/O completed)
 - 8. Save the registers and process state for the other user
 - 9. Determine that the interrupt was from the disk
 - 10. Correct the page table and other tables to show page is now in memory
 - 11. Wait for the CPU to be allocated to this process again
 - 12. Restore the user registers, process state, and new page table, and then resume the interrupted instruction

Performance of Demand Paging (Cont.)

- Three major activities
 - Service the interrupt careful coding means just several hundred instructions needed
 - Read the page lots of time
 - Restart the process again just a small amount of time
- Page Fault Rate $0 \le p \le 1$
 - if p = 0 no page faults
 - if p = 1, every reference is a fault
- Effective Access Time (EAT)

EAT = (1 - p) x memory access

+ p (page fault overhead + swap page out + swap page in)

Demand Paging Example

- Memory access time = 200 nanoseconds
- Average page-fault service time = 8 milliseconds
 - $EAT = (1 p) \times 200 + p$ (8 milliseconds)
 - = (1 p) x 200 + p x 8,000,000
 - = 200 + p x 7,999,800
- If one access out of 1,000 causes a page fault, then
 - EAT = 8.2 microseconds \rightarrow This is a slowdown by a factor of 40!!
- If want performance degradation < 10 percent
 - 220 > 200 + 7,999,800 x p
 - ⇔ 20 > 7,999,800 x p
 - ⇔ p < .0000025
 - ⇔ < one page fault in every 400,000 memory accesses

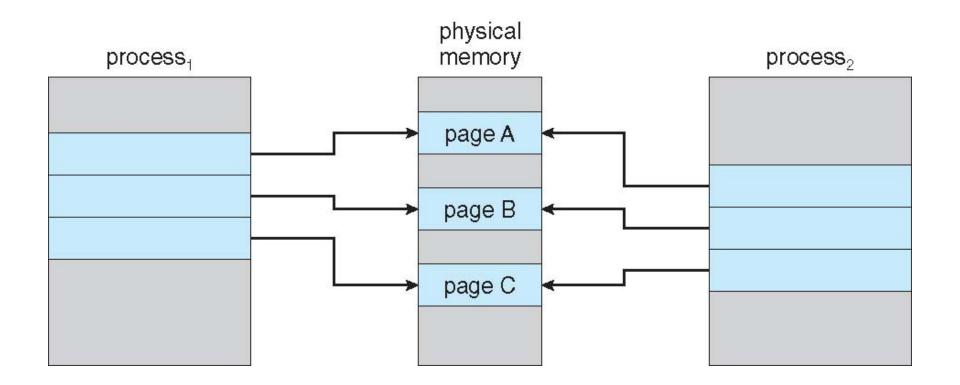
Demand Paging Optimizations

- Swap space I/O faster than file system I/O even if on the same device
 - Swap allocated in larger chunks, less management needed than file system
- Copy entire process image to swap space at process load time
 - Then page in and out of swap space
 - Used in older BSD Unix
- Demand page in from program binary on disk, but discard rather than paging out when freeing frame
 - Used in Solaris and current BSD
 - Still need to write to swap space
 - Pages not associated with a file (like stack and heap) anonymous memory
 - Pages modified in memory but not yet written back to the file system

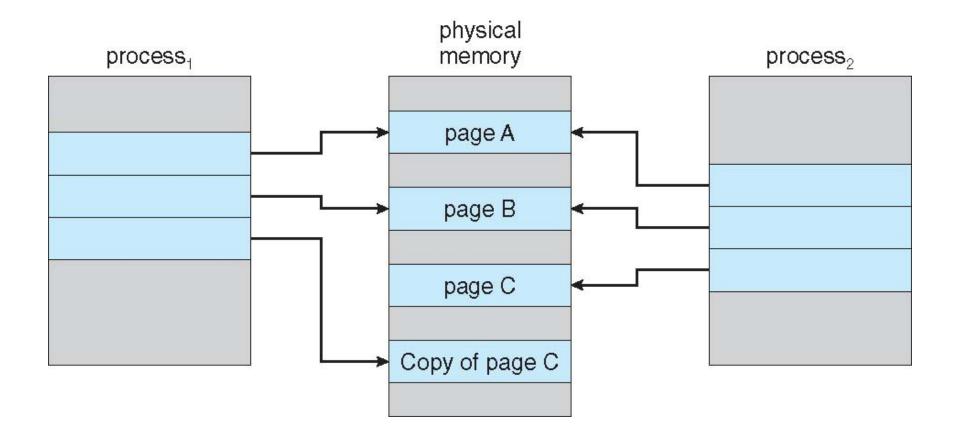
Copy-on-Write

- Copy-on-Write (COW) allows both parent and child processes to initially share the same pages in memory
 - If either process modifies a shared page, only then is the page copied
- COW allows more efficient process creation as only modified pages are copied
- In general, free pages are allocated from a pool of zero-fill-ondemand pages
 - Pool should always have free frames for fast demand page execution
 - Don't want to have to free a frame as well as other processing on page fault
 - Why zero-out a page before allocating it?
- vfork() variation on fork() system call has parent suspend and child using copy-on-write address space of parent
 - Designed to have child call exec()
 - Very efficient

Before Process 1 Modifies Page C



After Process 1 Modifies Page C



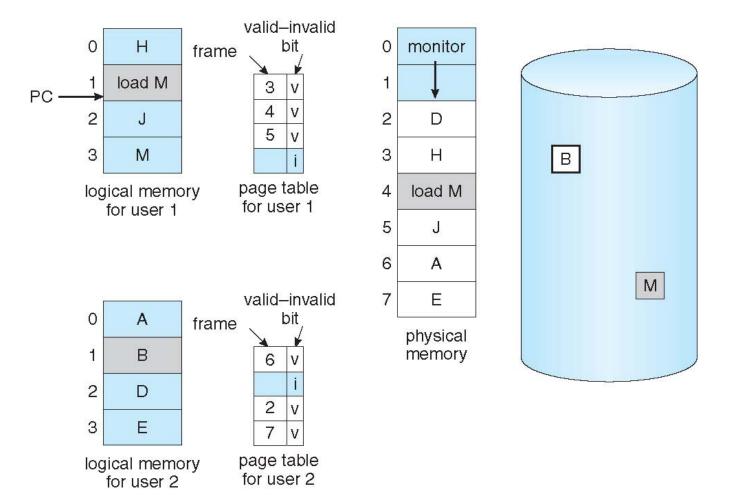
What Happens if There is no Free Frame?

- Used up by process pages
- Also in demand from the kernel, I/O buffers, etc
- How much to allocate to each?
- Page replacement find some page in memory, but not really in use, page it out
 - Algorithm terminate? swap out? replace the page?
 - Performance want an algorithm which will result in minimum number of page faults
- Same page may be brought into memory several times

Page Replacement

- Prevent over-allocation of memory by modifying pagefault service routine to include page replacement
- Use modify (dirty) bit to reduce overhead of page transfers – only modified pages are written to disk
- Page replacement completes separation between logical memory and physical memory – large virtual memory can be provided on a smaller physical memory

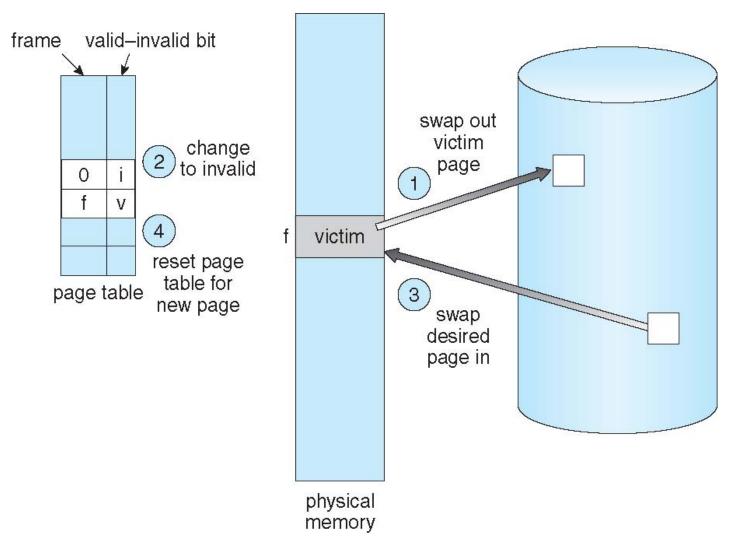
Need For Page Replacement



Basic Page Replacement

- Find the location of the desired page on disk
- Find a free frame:
 - If there is a free frame, use it
 - If there is no free frame, use a page replacement algorithm to select a victim frame
 - Write victim frame to disk if dirty
- Bring the desired page into the (newly) free frame; update the page and frame tables
- Continue the process by restarting the instruction that caused the trap

Page Replacement

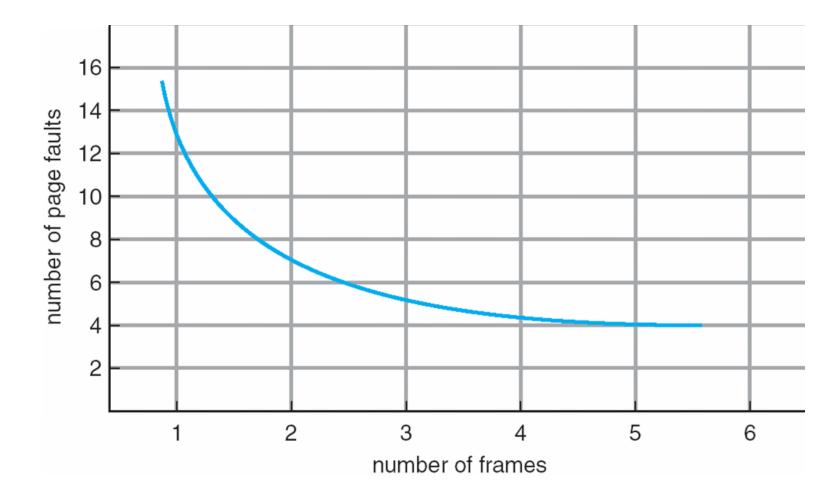


Page and Frame Replacement Algorithms

- Frame-allocation algorithm determines
 - How many frames to give each process
 - Which frames to replace
- Page-replacement algorithm
 - Want lowest page-fault rate on both first access and re-access
- Evaluate algorithm by running it on a particular string of memory references (reference string) and computing the number of page faults on that string
 - String is just page numbers, not full addresses
 - Repeated access to the same page does not cause a page fault
 - Results depend on number of frames available
- In all our examples, the reference string of referenced page numbers is

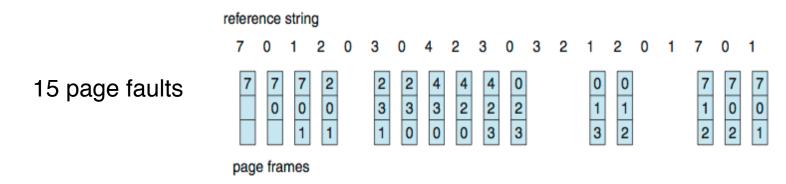
7,0,1,2,0,3,0,4,2,3,0,3,0,3,2,1,2,0,1,7,0,1

Graph of Page Faults Versus The Number of Frames



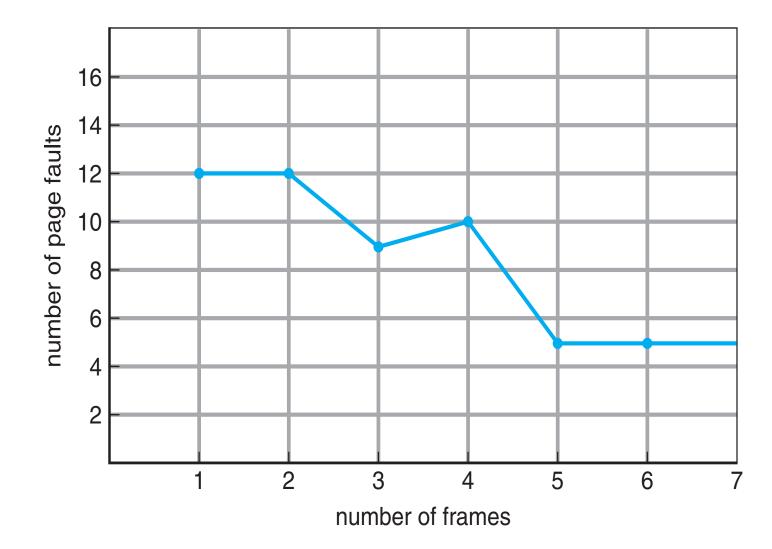
First-In-First-Out (FIFO) Algorithm

- Reference string: 7,0,1,2,0,3,0,4,2,3,0,3,0,3,2,1,2,0,1,7,0,1
- 3 frames (3 pages can be in memory at a time per process)



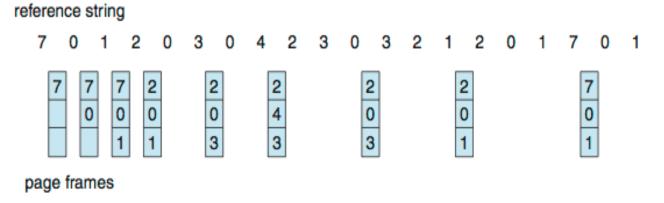
- Can vary by reference string: consider 1,2,3,4,1,2,5,1,2,3,4,5
 - Adding more frames can cause more page faults! → Belady's Anomaly
- How to track ages of pages?
 - Just use a FIFO queue

FIFO Illustrating Belady's Anomaly



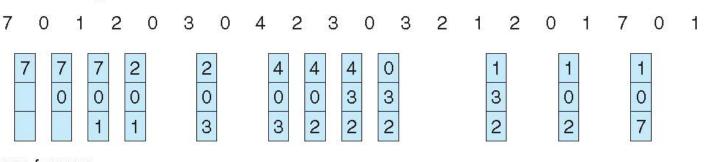
Optimal Algorithm

- Replace page that will not be used for longest period of time
 - 9 is optimal for the example
- How do you know this?
 - Can't read the future
- Used for measuring how well your algorithm performs



Least Recently Used (LRU) Algorithm

- Use past knowledge rather than future
- Replace page that has not been used in the most amount of time
- Associate time of last use with each page



page frames

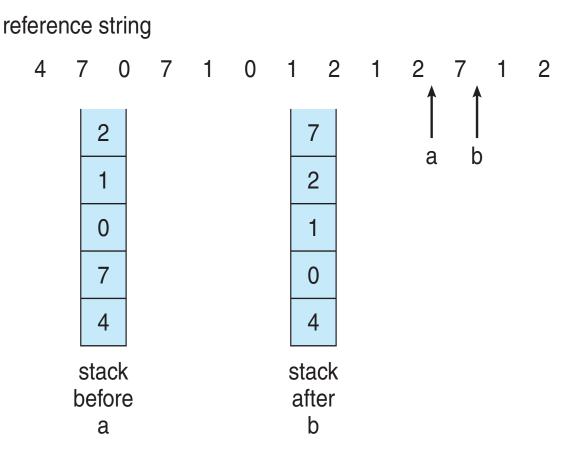
reference string

- 12 faults better than FIFO but worse than OPT
- Generally good algorithm and frequently used
- But how to implement?

LRU Algorithm (Cont.)

- Counter implementation
 - Every page entry has a counter; every time page is referenced through this entry, copy the clock into the counter
 - When a page needs to be changed, look at the counters to find smallest value
 - Search through table needed
- Stack implementation
 - Keep a stack of page numbers in a double link form:
 - Page referenced:
 - move it to the top
 - requires 6 pointers to be changed
 - But each update more expensive
 - No search for replacement
- LRU and OPT are cases of stack algorithms that don't have Belady's Anomaly

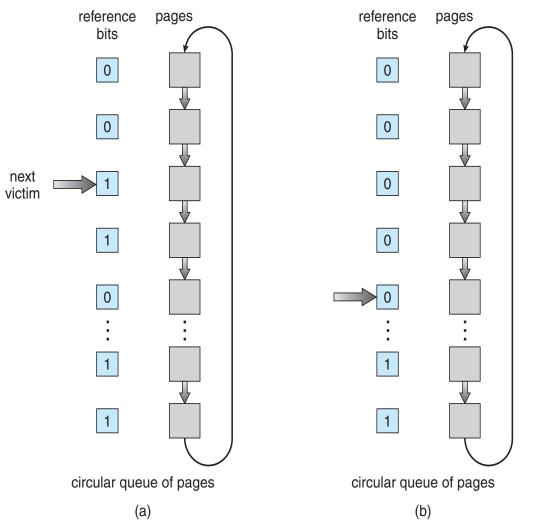
Use Of A Stack to Record Most Recent Page References



LRU Approximation Algorithms

- LRU needs special hardware and still slow
- Reference bit
 - With each page associate a bit, initially = 0
 - When page is referenced bit set to 1
 - Replace any with reference bit = 0 (if one exists)
 - We do not know the order, however
- Second-chance algorithm
 - Generally FIFO, plus hardware-provided reference bit
 - Clock replacement
 - If page to be replaced has
 - Reference bit = $0 \rightarrow$ replace it
 - reference bit = 1 then:
 - set reference bit 0, leave page in memory
 - replace next page, subject to same rules

Second-Chance (clock) Page-Replacement Algorithm



Enhanced Second-Chance Algorithm

- Improve algorithm by using reference bit and modify bit (if available) in concert
- Take ordered pair (reference, modify)
 - (0, 0) neither recently used not modified best page to replace
 - (0, 1) not recently used but modified not quite as good, must write out before replacement
 - (1, 0) recently used but clean probably will be used again soon
 - (1, 1) recently used and modified probably will be used again soon and need to write out before replacement
- When page replacement called for, use the clock scheme but use the four classes replace page in lowest non-empty class
 - Might need to search circular queue several times

Counting Algorithms

- Keep a counter of the number of references that have been made to each page
 - Not common
- Least Frequently Used (LFU) Algorithm: replaces page with smallest count
- Most Frequently Used (MFU) Algorithm: based on the argument that the page with the smallest count was probably just brought in and has yet to be used

Page-Buffering Algorithms

- Keep a pool of free frames, always
 - Then frame available when needed, not found at fault time
 - Read page into free frame and select victim to evict and add to free pool
 - When convenient, evict victim
- Possibly, keep list of modified pages
 - When backing store otherwise idle, write pages there and set to non-dirty
- Possibly, keep free frame contents intact and note what is in them
 - If referenced again before reused, no need to load contents again from disk
 - Generally useful to reduce penalty if wrong victim frame selected

Applications and Page Replacement

- All of these algorithms have OS guessing about future page access
- Some applications have better knowledge i.e. databases
- Memory intensive applications can cause double buffering
 - OS keeps copy of page in memory as I/O buffer
 - Application keeps page in memory for its own work
- Operating system can given direct access to the disk, getting out of the way of the applications
 - Raw disk mode
- Bypasses buffering, locking, etc

Allocation of Frames

- Each process needs minimum number of frames
- Example: IBM 370 6 pages to handle SS MOVE instruction:
 - instruction is 6 bytes, might span 2 pages
 - 2 pages to handle from
 - 2 pages to handle to
- Maximum of course is total frames in the system
- Two major allocation schemes
 - fixed allocation
 - priority allocation
- Many variations

Fixed Allocation

- Equal allocation For example, if there are 100 frames (after allocating frames for the OS) and 5 processes, give each process 20 frames
 - Keep some as free frame buffer pool
- Proportional allocation Allocate according to the size of process
 - Dynamic as degree of multiprogramming, process sizes change
 - $-s_i = \text{size of process } p_i$ m = 64 $-S = \sum s_i$ $s_1 = 10$ -m = total number of frames $s_2 = 127$ $-a_i = \text{allocation for } p_i = \frac{s_i}{S} \times m$ $a_1 = \frac{10}{137} \times 62 \approx 4$ $a_2 = \frac{127}{137} \times 62 \approx 57$

Priority Allocation

- Use a proportional allocation scheme using priorities rather than size
- If process Pi generates a page fault,
 - select for replacement one of its frames
 - select for replacement a frame from a process with lower priority number

Global vs. Local Allocation

- Global replacement process selects a replacement frame from the set of all frames; one process can take a frame from another
 - But then process execution time can vary greatly
 - But greater throughput so more common
- Local replacement each process selects from only its own set of allocated frames
 - More consistent per-process performance
 - But possibly underutilized memory

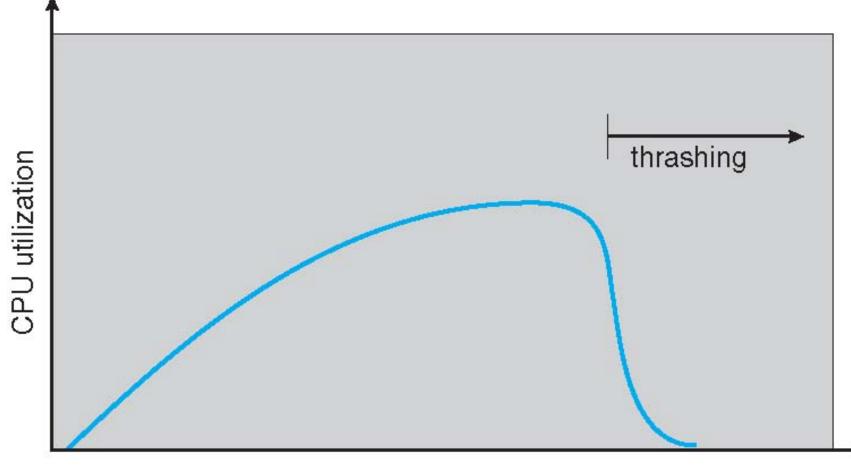
Non-Uniform Memory Access

- So far all memory accessed equally
- Many systems are NUMA speed of access to memory varies
 - Consider system boards containing CPUs and memory, interconnected over a system bus
- Optimal performance comes from allocating memory "close to" the CPU on which the thread is scheduled
 - And modifying the scheduler to schedule the thread on the same system board when possible
 - Solved by Solaris by creating *Igroups*
 - Structure to track CPU / Memory low latency groups
 - Used my schedule and pager
 - When possible schedule all threads of a process and allocate all memory for that process within the Igroup

Thrashing

- If a process does not have "enough" pages, the pagefault rate is very high
 - Page fault to get page
 - Replace existing frame
 - But quickly need replaced frame back
 - This leads to:
 - Low CPU utilization
 - Operating system thinking that it needs to increase the degree of multiprogramming
 - Another process added to the system
- Thrashing = a process is busy swapping pages in and out

Thrashing (Cont.)

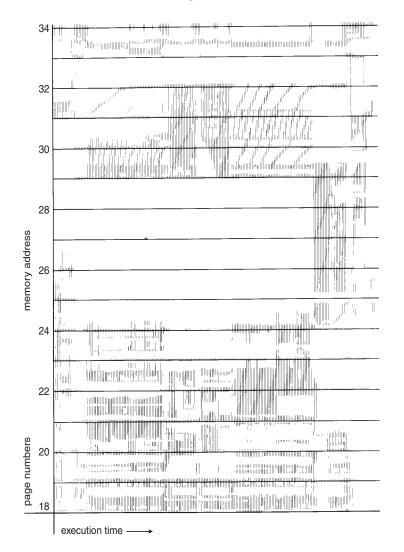


degree of multiprogramming

Demand Paging and Thrashing

- Why does demand paging work? Locality model
 - Process migrates from one locality to another
 - Localities may overlap
- Why does thrashing occur?
 Σ size of locality > total memory size
 - Limit effects by using local or priority page replacement

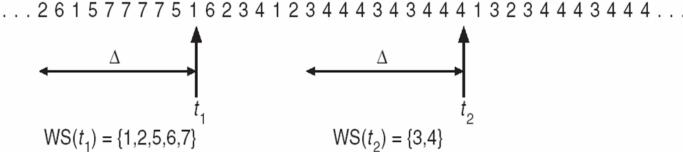
Locality In A Memory-Reference Pattern



Working-Set Model

- $\Delta \equiv$ working-set window \equiv a fixed number of page references
 - Example: 10,000 instructions
- WSSi (working set of Process Pi) = total number of pages referenced in the most recent Δ (varies in time)
 - if Δ too small will not encompass entire locality
 - if Δ too large will encompass several localities
 - if $\Delta = \infty \Rightarrow$ will encompass entire program
- $D = \Sigma WSSi = total demand frames$
 - Approximation of locality
- if D > m \Rightarrow Thrashing
- Policy if D > m, then suspend or swap out one of the processes

page reference table

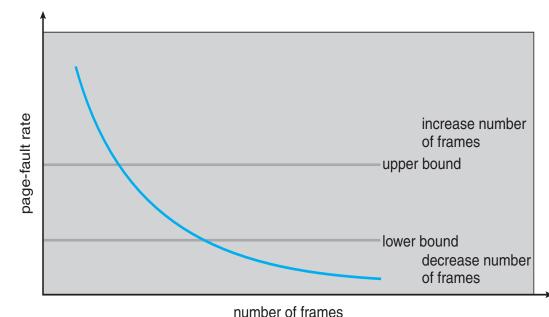


Keeping Track of the Working Set

- Approximate with interval timer + a reference bit
- Example: $\Delta = 10,000$
 - Timer interrupts after every 5000 time units
 - Keep in memory 2 bits for each page
 - Whenever a timer interrupts → copy and sets the values of all reference bits to 0
 - If one of the bits in memory = $1 \Rightarrow$ page in working set
- Why is this not completely accurate?
- Improvement = 10 bits and interrupt every 1000 time units

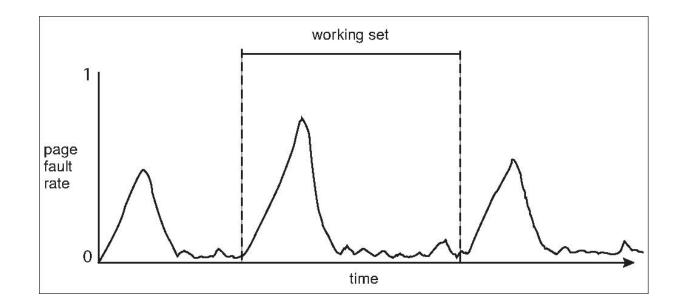
Page-Fault Frequency

- More direct approach than WSS
- Establish "acceptable" page-fault frequency (PFF) rate and use local replacement policy
 - If actual rate too low, process loses frame
 - If actual rate too high, process gains frame



Working Sets and Page Fault Rates

- Direct relationship between working set of a process and its page-fault rate
- Working set changes over time
- Peaks and valleys over time



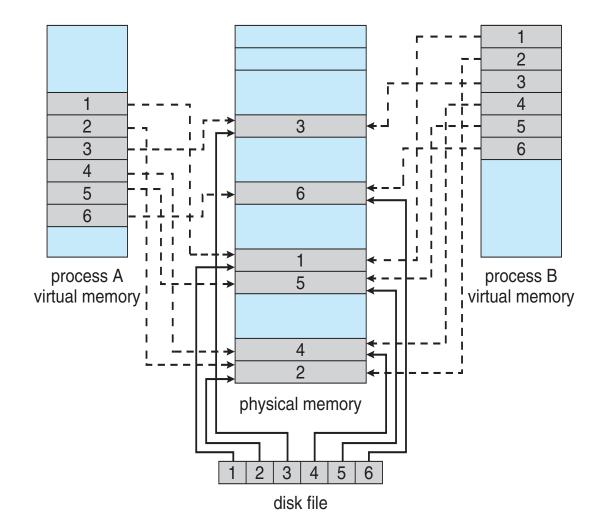
Memory-Mapped Files

- Memory-mapped file I/O allows file I/O to be treated as routine memory access by mapping a disk block to a page in memory
- A file is initially read using demand paging
 - A page-sized portion of the file is read from the file system into a physical page
 - Subsequent reads/writes to/from the file are treated as ordinary memory accesses
- Simplifies and speeds file access by driving file I/O through memory rather than read() and write() system calls
- Also allows several processes to map the same file allowing the pages in memory to be shared
- But when does written data make it to disk?
 - Periodically and / or at file close() time
 - For example, when the pager scans for dirty pages

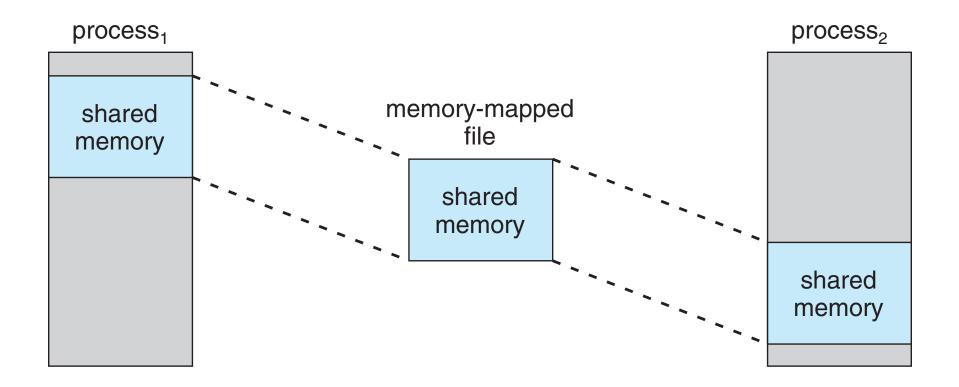
Memory-Mapped File Technique for all I/O

- Some OSes uses memory mapped files for standard I/O
- Process can explicitly request memory mapping a file via mmap() system call
 - Now file mapped into process address space
- For standard I/O (open(), read(), write(), close()), mmap anyway
 - But map file into kernel address space
 - Process still does read() and write()
 - Copies data to and from kernel space and user space
 - Uses efficient memory management subsystem
 - Avoids needing separate subsystem
- COW can be used for read/write non-shared pages
- Memory mapped files can be used for shared memory (although again via separate system calls)

Memory Mapped Files



Shared Memory via Memory-Mapped I/O



Shared Memory in Windows API

- First create a file mapping for file to be mapped
 - Then establish a view of the mapped file in process's virtual address space
- Consider producer / consumer
 - Producer create shared-memory object using memory mapping features
 - Open file via CreateFile(), returning a HANDLE
 - Create mapping via CreateFileMapping() creating a named sharedmemory object
 - Create view via MapViewOfFile()
- Sample code in Textbook

Allocating Kernel Memory

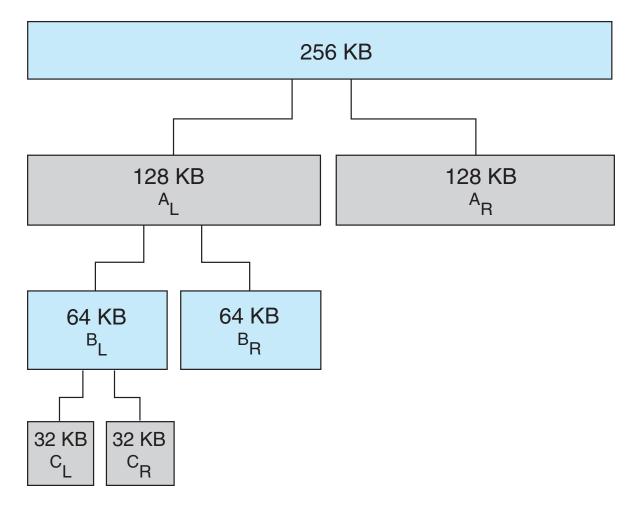
- Treated differently from user memory
- Often allocated from a free-memory pool
 - Kernel requests memory for structures of varying sizes
 - Some kernel memory needs to be contiguous
 - I.e. for device I/O

Buddy System

- Allocates memory from fixed-size segment consisting of physically-contiguous pages
- Memory allocated using power-of-2 allocator
 - Satisfies requests in units sized as power of 2
 - Request rounded up to next highest power of 2
 - When smaller allocation needed than is available, current chunk split into two buddies of next-lower power of 2
 - Continue until appropriate sized chunk available
- For example, assume 256KB chunk available, kernel requests 21KB
 - Split into AL and AR of 128KB each
 - One further divided into BL and BR of 64KB
 - One further into CL and CR of 32KB each one used to satisfy request
- Advantage quickly coalesce unused chunks into larger chunk
- Disadvantage fragmentation

Buddy System Allocator

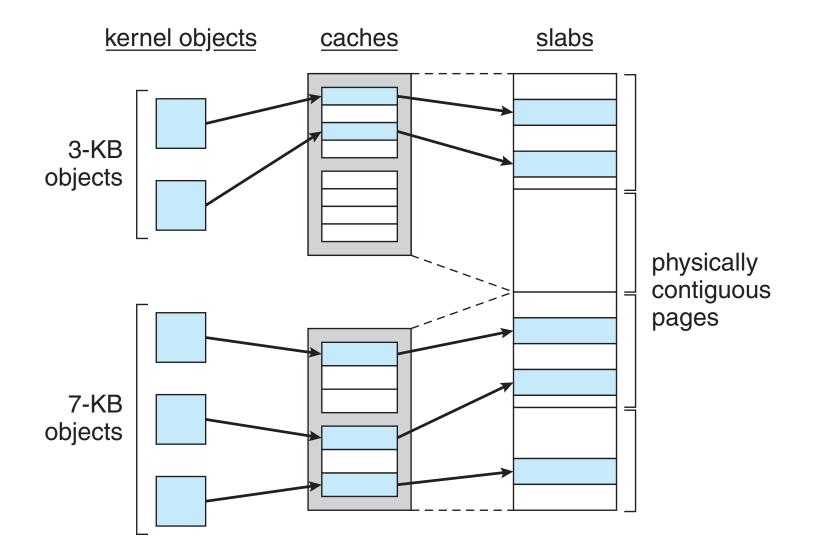
physically contiguous pages



Slab Allocator

- Alternate strategy
- Slab is one or more physically contiguous pages
- Cache consists of one or more slabs
- Single cache for each unique kernel data structure
 - Each cache filled with objects instantiations of the data structure
- When cache created, filled with objects marked as free
- When structures stored, objects marked as used
- If slab is full of used objects, next object allocated from empty slab
 - If no empty slabs, new slab allocated
- Benefits include no fragmentation, fast memory request satisfaction

Slab Allocation



Slab Allocator in Linux

- For example process descriptor is of type struct task_struct
- Approx 1.7KB of memory
- New task \rightarrow allocate new struct from cache
 - Will use existing free struct task_struct
- Slab can be in three possible states
 - Full all used
 - Empty all free
 - Partial mix of free and used
- Upon request, slab allocator
 - Uses free struct in partial slab
 - If none, takes one from empty slab
 - If no empty slab, create new empty

Slab Allocator in Linux (Cont.)

- Slab started in Solaris, now wide-spread for both kernel mode and user memory in various OSes
- Linux 2.2 had SLAB, now has both SLOB and SLUB allocators
 - SLOB for systems with limited memory
 - Simple List of Blocks maintains 3 list objects for small, medium, large objects
 - SLUB is performance-optimized SLAB removes per-CPU queues, metadata stored in page structure

Other Considerations -- Prepaging

- Prepaging
 - To reduce the large number of page faults that occurs at process startup
 - Prepage all or some of the pages a process will need, before they are referenced
 - But if prepaged pages are unused, I/O and memory was wasted
 - Assume s pages are prepaged and α of the pages are used
 - Is cost of s * α saved pages faults > or < than the cost of prepaging s * (1- α) unnecessary pages?
 - α near zero \Rightarrow prepaging loses

Other Issues – Page Size

- Sometimes OS designers have a choice
 - Especially if running on custom-built CPU
- Page size selection must take into consideration:
 - Fragmentation
 - Page table size
 - Resolution
 - I/O overhead
 - Number of page faults
 - Locality
 - TLB size and effectiveness
- Always power of 2, usually in the range 212 (4,096 bytes) to 222 (4,194,304 bytes)
- On average, growing over time

Other Issues – TLB Reach

- TLB Reach The amount of memory accessible from the TLB
- TLB Reach = (TLB Size) X (Page Size)
- Ideally, the working set of each process is stored in the TLB
 - Otherwise there is a high degree of page faults
- Increase the Page Size
 - This may lead to an increase in fragmentation as not all applications require a large page size
- Provide Multiple Page Sizes
 - This allows applications that require larger page sizes the opportunity to use them without an increase in fragmentation

Other Issues – Program Structure

int[128,128] data;

- Each row is stored in one page
- Program 1

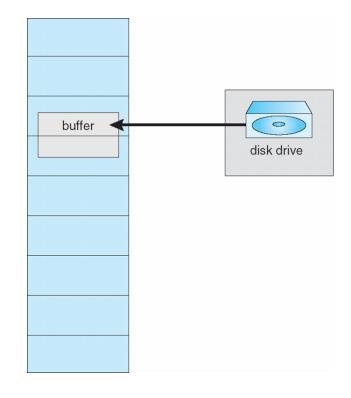
> 128 x 128 = 16,384 page faults

• Program 2 for (i = 0; i < 128; i++) for (j = 0; j < 128; j++) data[i,j] = 0;</pre>

>128 page faults

Other Issues – I/O interlock

- I/O Interlock Pages must sometimes be locked into memory
- Consider I/O Pages that are used for copying a file from a device must be locked from being selected for eviction by a page replacement algorithm
- Pinning of pages to lock into memory



Operating System Examples - Windows

- Uses demand paging with clustering. Clustering brings in pages surrounding the faulting page
- Processes are assigned working set minimum and working set maximum
- Working set minimum is the minimum number of pages the process is guaranteed to have in memory
- A process may be assigned as many pages up to its working set maximum
- When the amount of free memory in the system falls below a threshold, automatic working set trimming is performed to restore the amount of free memory
- Working set trimming removes pages from processes that have pages in excess of their working set minimum

Operating System Examples - Solaris

- Maintains a list of free pages to assign faulting processes
 - Lotsfree threshold parameter (amount of free memory) to begin paging
 - Desfree threshold parameter to increasing paging
 - Minfree threshold parameter to being swapping
- Paging is performed by pageout process
- Pageout scans pages using modified clock algorithm
- Scanrate is the rate at which pages are scanned. This ranges from slowscan to fastscan
- Pageout is called more frequently depending upon the amount of free memory available
- Priority paging gives priority to process code pages

Solaris 2 Page Scanner

