Chapter 8
Virtual Memory

Roadmap

Hardware and Control Structures
- Operating System Software
- UNIX and Solaris Memory Management
- Linux Memory Management
- Windows Memory Management
Terminology

Table 8.1 Virtual Memory Terminology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virtual memory</td>
<td>A storage allocation scheme in which secondary memory can be addressed as though it were part of main memory. The addresses a program may use to reference memory are distinguished from the addresses the memory system uses to identify physical storage sizes, and program-generated addresses are translated automatically to the corresponding machine addresses. The size of virtual storage is limited by the addressing scheme of the computer system and by the amount of secondary memory available and not by the actual number of main storage locations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual address</td>
<td>The address assigned to a location in virtual memory to allow that location to be accessed as though it were part of main memory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virtual address space</td>
<td>The virtual storage assigned to a process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address space</td>
<td>The range of memory addresses available to a process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real address</td>
<td>The address of a storage location in main memory.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key points in Memory Management

1) Memory references are logical addresses dynamically translated into physical addresses at run time
   - A process may be swapped in and out of main memory occupying different regions at different times during execution

2) A process may be broken up into pieces that do not need to located contiguously in main memory
Breakthrough in Memory Management

- If both of those two characteristics are present,
  - then it is not necessary that all of the pages or all of the segments of a process be in main memory during execution.
- If the next instruction, and the next data location are in memory then execution can proceed
  - at least for a time

Execution of a Process

- Operating system brings into main memory a few pieces of the program
- Resident set - portion of process that is in main memory
- An interrupt is generated when an address is needed that is not in main memory
- Operating system places the process in a blocking state
Execution of a Process

• Piece of process that contains the logical address is brought into main memory
  – Operating system issues a disk I/O Read request
  – Another process is dispatched to run while the disk I/O takes place
  – An interrupt is issued when disk I/O complete which causes the operating system to place the affected process in the Ready state

Implications of this new strategy

• More processes may be maintained in main memory
  – Only load in some of the pieces of each process
  – With so many processes in main memory, it is very likely a process will be in the Ready state at any particular time

• A process may be larger than all of main memory
Real and Virtual Memory

- Real memory
  - Main memory, the actual RAM
- Virtual memory
  - Memory on disk
  - Allows for effective multiprogramming and relieves the user of tight constraints of main memory

Thrashing

- A state in which the system spends most of its time swapping pieces rather than executing instructions.
- To avoid this, the operating system tries to guess which pieces are least likely to be used in the near future.
  - The guess is based on recent history
Principle of Locality

• Program and data references within a process tend to cluster
• Only a few pieces of a process will be needed over a short period of time
• Therefore it is possible to make intelligent guesses about which pieces will be needed in the future
• This suggests that virtual memory may work efficiently

A Processes Performance in VM Environment

• Note that during the lifetime of the process, references are confined to a subset of pages.
Support Needed for Virtual Memory

- Hardware must support paging and segmentation
- Operating system must be able to manage the movement of pages and/or segments between secondary memory and main memory

Paging

- Each process has its own page table
- Each page table entry contains the frame number of the corresponding page in main memory
- Two extra bits are needed to indicate:
  - whether the page is in main memory or not
  - Whether the contents of the page has been altered since it was last loaded

(see next slide)
**Paging Table**

Virtual Address

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Number</th>
<th>Offset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Page Table Entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Table Entry</th>
<th>Frame Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Page Control Bits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(a) Paging only

**Address Translation**

Program

Paging Mechanism

Main Memory

Figure 8.3 Address Translation in a Paging System
Page Tables

- Page tables are also stored in virtual memory
- When a process is running, part of its page table is in main memory

Two-Level Hierarchical Page Table

4-kbyte root page table

4-Mbyte user page table

4-Gbyte user address space

Figure 8.4 A Two-Level Hierarchical Page Table
Page tables grow proportionally

- A drawback of the type of page tables just discussed is that their size is proportional to that of the virtual address space.

- An alternative is Inverted Page Tables.
Inverted Page Table

- Used on PowerPC, UltraSPARC, and IA-64 architecture
- Page number portion of a virtual address is mapped into a hash value
- Hash value points to inverted page table
- Fixed proportion of real memory is required for the tables regardless of the number of processes

Inverted Page Table

Each entry in the page table includes:
- Page number
- Process identifier
  - The process that owns this page.
- Control bits
  - includes flags, such as valid, referenced, etc
- Chain pointer
  - the index value of the next entry in the chain.
Each virtual memory reference can cause two physical memory accesses
- One to fetch the page table
- One to fetch the data

To overcome this problem, a high-speed cache is set up for page table entries
- Called a Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB)
- Contains page table entries that have been most recently used

![Inverted Page Table](image)

![Translation Lookaside Buffer](image)
TLB Operation

- Given a virtual address,
  - processor examines the TLB
- If page table entry is present (TLB hit),
  - the frame number is retrieved and the real address is formed
- If page table entry is not found in the TLB (TLB miss),
  - the page number is used to index the process page table

Looking into the Process Page Table

- First checks if page is already in main memory
  - If not in main memory a page fault is issued
- The TLB is updated to include the new page entry
Translation Lookaside Buffer

Figure 8.7 Use of a Translation Lookaside Buffer

TLB operation

Figure 8.8 Operation of Paging and Translation Lookaside Buffer (TLB) [PUR87]
Associative Mapping

• As the TLB only contains some of the page table entries we cannot simply index into the TLB based on the page number
  – Each TLB entry must include the page number as well as the complete page table entry

• The process is able to simultaneously query numerous TLB entries to determine if there is a page number match

Translation Lookaside Buffer

Figure 8.9  Direct Versus Associative Lookup for Page Table Entries
Page Size

- Smaller page size, less amount of internal fragmentation
- But Smaller page size, more pages required per process
  - More pages per process means larger page tables
- Larger page tables means large portion of page tables in virtual memory
Page Size

- Secondary memory is designed to efficiently transfer large blocks of data so a large page size is better.

Further complications to Page Size

- Small page size, large number of pages will be found in main memory.
- As time goes on during execution, the pages in memory will all contain portions of the process near recent references. Page faults low.
- Increased page size causes pages to contain locations further from any recent reference. Page faults rise.
Page Size

(a) Page Size
(b) Number of Page Frames Allocated

P = size of entire process
W = working set size
N = total number of pages in process

Figure 8.11 Typical Paging Behavior of a Program

Example Page Size

Table 8.3 Example Page Sizes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Computer</th>
<th>Page Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlas</td>
<td>512 48-bit words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeywell-Multics</td>
<td>1024 36-bit word</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBM 370/XA and 370/ESA</td>
<td>4 Kbytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAX family</td>
<td>512 bytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBM AS/400</td>
<td>512 bytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEC Alpha</td>
<td>8 Kbytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIPS</td>
<td>4 Kbytes to 16 Mbytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UltraSPARC</td>
<td>8 Kbytes to 4 Mbytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentium</td>
<td>4 Kbytes or 4 Mbytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBM POWER</td>
<td>4 Kbytes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itanium</td>
<td>4 Kbytes to 256 Mbytes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Segmentation

- Segmentation allows the programmer to view memory as consisting of multiple address spaces or segments.
  - May be unequal, dynamic size
  - Simplifies handling of growing data structures
  - Allows programs to be altered and recompiled independently
  - Lends itself to sharing data among processes
  - Lends itself to protection

Segment Organization

- Starting address corresponding segment in main memory
- Each entry contains the length of the segment
- A bit is needed to determine if segment is already in main memory
- Another bit is needed to determine if the segment has been modified since it was loaded in main memory
Segment Table Entries

Virtual Address

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment Number</th>
<th>Offset</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Segment Table Entry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pro Other Control Bits</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Segment Base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

(b) Segmentation only

Address Translation in Segmentation

Figure 8.12 Address Translation in a Segmentation System
Combined Paging and Segmentation

- Paging is transparent to the programmer
- Segmentation is visible to the programmer
- Each segment is broken into fixed-size pages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Virtual Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Segment Number</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment Table Entry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control Bit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page Table Entry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control Bit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) Combined segmentation and paging

P = present bit
M = Modified bit
Address Translation

Protection and sharing

- Segmentation lends itself to the implementation of protection and sharing policies.
- As each entry has a base address and length, inadvertent memory access can be controlled.
- Sharing can be achieved by segments referencing multiple processes.
Protection Relationships

Roadmap

- Hardware and Control Structures
- Operating System Software
- UNIX and Solaris Memory Management
- Linux Memory Management
- Windows Memory Management
Memory Management Decisions

• Whether or not to use virtual memory techniques
• The use of paging or segmentation or both
• The algorithms employed for various aspects of memory management

Key Design Elements

- Key aim: Minimise page faults
  - No definitive best policy
Fetch Policy

- Determines when a page should be brought into memory
- Two main types:
  - Demand Paging
  - Prepaging

Demand Paging and Prepaging

- **Demand paging**
  - only brings pages into main memory when a reference is made to a location on the page
  - Many page faults when process first started

- **Prepaging**
  - brings in more pages than needed
  - More efficient to bring in pages that reside contiguously on the disk
  - Don’t confuse with “swapping”
Placement Policy

• Determines where in real memory a process piece is to reside
• Important in a segmentation system
• Paging or combined paging with segmentation hardware performs address translation

Replacement Policy

• When all of the frames in main memory are occupied and it is necessary to bring in a new page, the replacement policy determines which page currently in memory is to be replaced.
But…

• Which page is replaced?
• Page removed should be the page least likely to be referenced in the near future
  – How is that determined?
  – Principal of locality again
• Most policies predict the future behavior on the basis of past behavior

Replacement Policy: Frame Locking

• Frame Locking
  – If frame is locked, it may not be replaced
  – Kernel of the operating system
  – Key control structures
  – I/O buffers
  – Associate a lock bit with each frame
Basic Replacement Algorithms

• There are certain basic algorithms that are used for the selection of a page to replace, they include
  – Optimal
  – Least recently used (LRU)
  – First-in-first-out (FIFO)
  – Clock
• Examples

Examples

• An example of the implementation of these policies will use a page address stream formed by executing the program is
  – 2 3 2 1 5 2 4 5 3 2 5 2
• Which means that the first page referenced is 2,
  – the second page referenced is 3,
  – And so on.
Optimal policy

- Selects for replacement that page for which the time to the next reference is the longest
- But Impossible to have perfect knowledge of future events

Optimal Policy Example

- The optimal policy produces three page faults after the frame allocation has been filled.
Least Recently Used (LRU)

- Replaces the page that has not been referenced for the longest time
- By the principle of locality, this should be the page least likely to be referenced in the near future
- Difficult to implement
  - One approach is to tag each page with the time of last reference.
  - This requires a great deal of overhead.

LRU Example

- The LRU policy does nearly as well as the optimal policy.
  - In this example, there are four page faults
First-in, first-out (FIFO)

- Treats page frames allocated to a process as a circular buffer
- Pages are removed in round-robin style
  - Simplest replacement policy to implement
- Page that has been in memory the longest is replaced
  - But, these pages may be needed again very soon if it hasn’t truly fallen out of use

FIFO Example

- The FIFO policy results in six page faults.
  - Note that LRU recognizes that pages 2 and 5 are referenced more frequently than other pages, whereas FIFO does not.
Clock Policy

• Uses an additional bit called a “use bit”
• When a page is first loaded in memory or referenced, the use bit is set to 1
• When it is time to replace a page, the OS scans the set flipping all 1’s to 0
• The first frame encountered with the use bit already set to 0 is replaced.

Clock Policy Example

• Note that the clock policy is adept at protecting frames 2 and 5 from replacement.
Figure 8.16  Example of Clock Policy Operation
Clock Policy

Figure 8.18 The Clock Page-Replacement Algorithm [GOLD89]

Combined Examples

Figure 8.15 Behavior of Four Page Replacement Algorithms
Comparison

Page Buffering

- LRU and Clock policies both involve complexity and overhead
  - Also, replacing a modified page is more costly than unmodified as needs written to secondary memory
- Solution: Replaced page is added to one of two lists
  - Free page list if page has not been modified
  - Modified page list
Replacement Policy and Cache Size

- Main memory size is getting larger and the locality of applications is decreasing.
  - So, cache sizes have been increasing
- With large caches, replacement of pages can have a performance impact
  - improve performance by supplementing the page replacement policy with a policy for page placement in the page buffer

Resident Set Management

- The OS must decide how many pages to bring into main memory
  - The smaller the amount of memory allocated to each process, the more processes that can reside in memory.
  - Small number of pages loaded increases page faults.
  - Beyond a certain size, further allocations of pages will not affect the page fault rate.
Resident Set Size

- **Fixed-allocation**
  - Gives a process a fixed number of pages within which to execute
  - When a page fault occurs, one of the pages of that process must be replaced

- **Variable-allocation**
  - Number of pages allocated to a process varies over the lifetime of the process

Replacement Scope

- The scope of a replacement strategy can be categorized as **global** or **local**.
  - Both types are activated by a page fault when there are no free page frames.
  - A local replacement policy chooses only among the resident pages of the process that generated the page fault.
  - A global replacement policy considers all unlocked pages in main memory.
Fixed Allocation, Local Scope

- Decide ahead of time the amount of allocation to give a process
- If allocation is too small, there will be a high page fault rate
- If allocation is too large there will be too few programs in main memory
  - Increased processor idle time or
  - Increased swapping.

Variable Allocation, Global Scope

- Easiest to implement
  - Adopted by many operating systems
- Operating system keeps list of free frames
- Free frame is added to resident set of process when a page fault occurs
- If no free frame, replaces one from another process
  - Therein lies the difficulty … which to replace.
Variable Allocation, Local Scope

- When a new process is added, allocate a number of page frames based on application type, program request, or other criteria.
- When a page fault occurs, select a page from among the resident set of the process that suffers the fault.
- Reevaluate allocation from time to time.

Resident Set Management Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Local Replacement</th>
<th>Global Replacement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fixed Allocation</td>
<td></td>
<td>Not possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Variable Allocation</td>
<td>The number of frames allocated to a process may be changed from time to time, to maintain the working set of the process.</td>
<td>Page to be replaced is chosen from all available frames in main memory, this causes the size of the resident set of processes to vary.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cleaning Policy

- A cleaning policy is concerned with determining when a modified page should be written out to secondary memory.

- Demand cleaning
  - A page is written out only when it has been selected for replacement

- Precleaning
  - Pages are written out in batches

Cleaning Policy

- Best approach uses page buffering
- Replaced pages are placed in two lists
  - Modified and unmodified
- Pages in the modified list are periodically written out in batches
- Pages in the unmodified list are either reclaimed if referenced again or lost when its frame is assigned to another page
Load Control

- Determines the number of processes that will be resident in main memory
  - The multiprogramming level
- Too few processes, many occasions when all processes will be blocked and much time will be spent in swapping
- Too many processes will lead to thrashing

Multiprogramming

![Multiprogramming](image)

Figure 8.21 Multiprogramming Effects
Process Suspension

• If the degree of multiprogramming is to be reduced, one or more of the currently resident processes must be suspended (swapped out).
• Six possibilities exist…

Suspension policies

• Lowest priority process
• Faulting process
  – This process does not have its working set in main memory so it will be blocked anyway
• Last process activated
  – This process is least likely to have its working set resident
Suspension policies cont.

- Process with smallest resident set
  - This process requires the least future effort to reload
- Largest process
  - Obtains the most free frames
- Process with the largest remaining execution window

Roadmap

- Hardware and Control Structures
- Operating System Software
  - UNIX and Solaris Memory Management
    - Linux Memory Management
    - Windows Memory Management
Unix

• Intended to be machine independent so implementations vary
  – Early Unix: variable partitioning with no virtual memory to paged
  – Recent Unix (SVR4 & Solaris) using paged virtual memory
• SVR4 uses two separate schemes:
  – *Paging system and a kernel memory allocator.*

Paging System and Kernel Memory Allocator

• Paging system provides a virtual memory capability that allocates page frames in main memory to processes
  – Also allocates page frames to disk block buffers.
• Kernel Memory Allocator allocates memory for the kernel
  – The paging system is less suited for this task
Paged VM
Data Structures

(a) Page table entry

(b) Disk block descriptor

(c) Page frame data table entry

(d) Swap-set table entry

Figure 8.22 UNIX SVR4 Memory Management Formats

Page Table Entry Fields

Page frame number
- Refers to frame in real memory.

Age
- Indicates how long the page has been in memory without being referenced. The length and contents of this field are processor dependent.

Copy-on-write
- Set when more than one process shares a page. If one of the processes writes into the page, a separate copy of the page must first be made for all other processes that share the page. This feature allows the copy operation to be deferred until necessary and avoided in cases where it turns out not to be necessary.

Modify
- Indicates page has been modified.

Reference
- Indicates page has been referenced. This bit is set to zero when the page is first loaded and may be periodically reset by the page replacement algorithm.

Valid
- Indicates page is in main memory.

Present
- Indicates whether write operations are allowed.
Disk Block Descriptor Fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swap device number</td>
<td>Logical device number of the secondary device that holds the corresponding page. This allows more than one device to be used for swapping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Device block number</td>
<td>Block location of page on swap device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type of storage</td>
<td>Storage may be swap unit or executable file. In the latter case, there is an indication as to whether the virtual memory to be allocated should be cleared first.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page Frame and Swap Use fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page State</th>
<th>Indicates whether this frame is available or has an associated page. In the latter case, the status of the page is specified: on swap device, in executable file, or DMA in progress.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference count</td>
<td>Number of processes that reference the page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logical device</td>
<td>Logical device that contains a copy of the page.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Block number</td>
<td>Block location of the page copy on the logical device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pidata pointer</td>
<td>Pointer to other pidata table entries on a list of free pages and on a hash queue of pages.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Swap-Use Table Entry</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference count</td>
<td>Number of page table entries that point to a page on the swap device.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page/storage unit number</td>
<td>Page identifier on storage unit.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Page Replacement

- The page frame data table is used for page replacement
- Pointers used to create several lists within the table
  - Free frame list
  - When the number of free frames drops below a threshold, the kernel will steal a number of frames to compensate.

“Two Handed” Clock Page Replacement

Figure 8.23 Two-Handed Clock Page-Replacement Algorithm
Parameters for Two Handed Clock

• Scanrate:
  – The rate at which the two hands scan through the page list, in pages per second

• Handspread:
  – The gap between fronthand and backhand

• Both have defaults set at boot time based on physical memory

Kernel Memory Allocator

• The kernel generates and destroys small tables and buffers frequently during the course of execution, each of which requires dynamic memory allocation.

• Most of these blocks significantly smaller than typical pages,
  – Therefore normal paging would be inefficient

• Variation of “buddy system” is used
Lazy Buddy

- UNIX often exhibits steady-state behavior in kernel memory demand;
  - i.e. the amount of demand for blocks of a particular size varies slowly in time.
- To avoid unnecessary joining and splitting of blocks,
  - the lazy buddy system defers coalescing until it seems likely that it is needed, and then coalesces as many blocks as possible.

Lazy Buddy System Parameters

- \( N_i \) = current number of blocks of size \( 2^i \)
- \( A_i \) = current number of blocks of size \( 2^i \) that are allocated (occupied).
- \( G_i \) = current number of blocks of size \( 2^i \) that are globally free.
- \( L_i \) = current number of blocks of size \( 2^i \) that are locally free.
Linux Memory Management

- Shares many characteristics with Unix
  - But is quite complex
- Two main aspects
  - Process virtual memory, and
  - Kernel memory allocation.
Linux Memory Management

- Page directory
- Page middle directory
- Page table

Linux Virtual Memory

- Three level page table structure
  - Each table is the size of one page
- Page directory
  - Each process has one page directory
  - 1 page in size, must be in main memory
- Page middle directory:
  - May be multiple pages, each entry points to one page in the page table
Linux Memory cont

• Page table
  – May also span multiple pages.
  – Each page table entry refers to one virtual page of the process.

Address Translation

Figure 8.25  Address Translation in Linux Virtual Memory Scheme
Page Replacement

- Based on the clock algorithm
- The “use bit” is replaced with an 8-bit age variable
  - Incremented with each page access
- Periodically decrements the age bits
  - Any page with an age of 0 is “old” and is a candidate for replacement
- A form of Least Frequently Used policy

Windows Memory Management

- The Windows virtual memory manager controls how memory is allocated and how paging is performed.
- Designed to operate over a variety of platforms
  - Uses page sizes ranging from 4 Kbytes to 64 Kbytes.
Windows Virtual Address Map

- On 32 bit platforms each user process sees a separate 32 bit address space
  - Allowing 4G per process
- Some reserved for the OS,
  - Typically each user process has 32G of available virtual address space
  - With all processes sharing the same 2G system space

32 bit Windows Address Space

- 64Kbyte region for NULL-pointer assignments (inaccessible)
- 4Mbyte region for bad-printer assignments (inaccessible)
- 2Gbyte region for the operating system (inaccessible)
- 2Gbyte user address space (inaccessible, usable)

Figure 8.26 Windows Default 32-bit Virtual Address Space
Windows Paging

• On creation, a process can make use of the entire user space of almost 2 Gbytes.
• This space is divided into fixed-size pages managed in contiguous regions allocated on 64Kbyte boundaries.
• Regions may be in one of three states
  – Available
  – Reserved
  – Committed

Resident Set Management System

• Windows uses “variable allocation, local scope”
• When activated a process is assigned data structures to manage its working set.
• Working sets of active processes are adjusted depending on the availability of main memory.