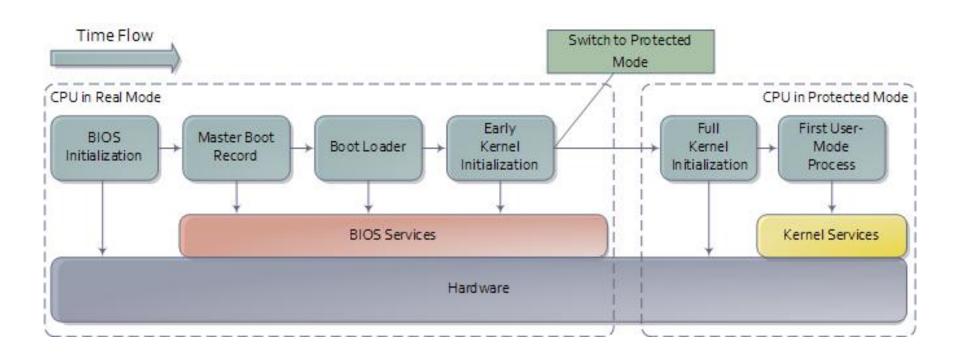
x86 Initial Boot Sequence

Advanced Operating Systems and Virtualization
Alessandro Pellegrini
A.Y. 2019/2020



The whole sequence at a glance







Boot Sequence

BIOS/UEFI

The actual Hardware Startup

Bootloader Stage 1

Executes the Stage 2 bootloader (skipped in case of UEFI)

Bootloader Stage 2

Loads and starts the Kernel

Kernel Startup

The Kernel takes control of and initializes the machine (machine-dependent operations)

Init

First process: basic environment initialization (e.g., SystemV Init, systemd)

Runlevels/Targets

Initializes the user environment (e.g., single-user mode, multiuser, graphical, ...)





Hardware Power Sequences: The Pre-Pre-Boot

- When someone pushes the power button, the CPU can't simply jump up and start fetching code from flash memory
- The hardware waits for the power supply to settle to its nominal state
- Additional voltages must be supplied:
 - On x86 systems: 1.5, 3.3, 5, and 12 V
 - Power Sequencing: these must be provided in a particular order





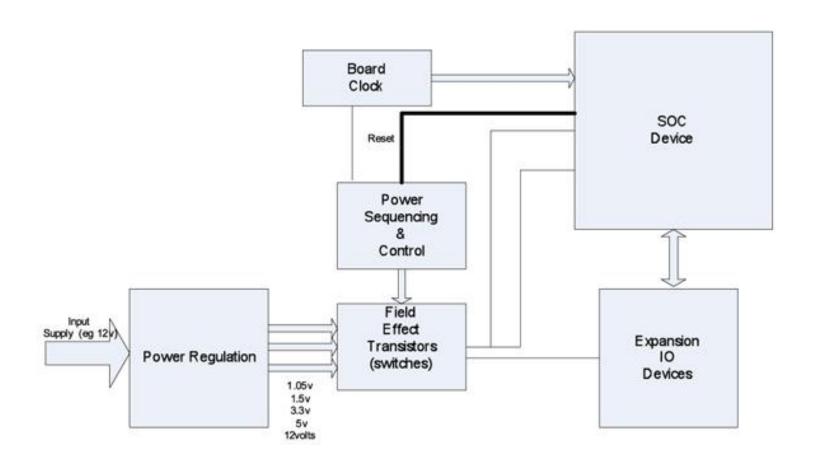
Hardware Power Sequences: The Pre-Pre-Boot

- The power is sequenced by controlling analog switches, typically field-effect transistors
- The sequence is often driven by a Complex Program Logic Device (CPLD)
- Platform clocks are derived from a small number of input clock and oscillator sources.
 - The devices use phase-locked loop circuitry to generate the derived clocks used for the platform.
 - These clocks take time to converge.





Hardware Power Sequences: The Pre-Pre-Boot







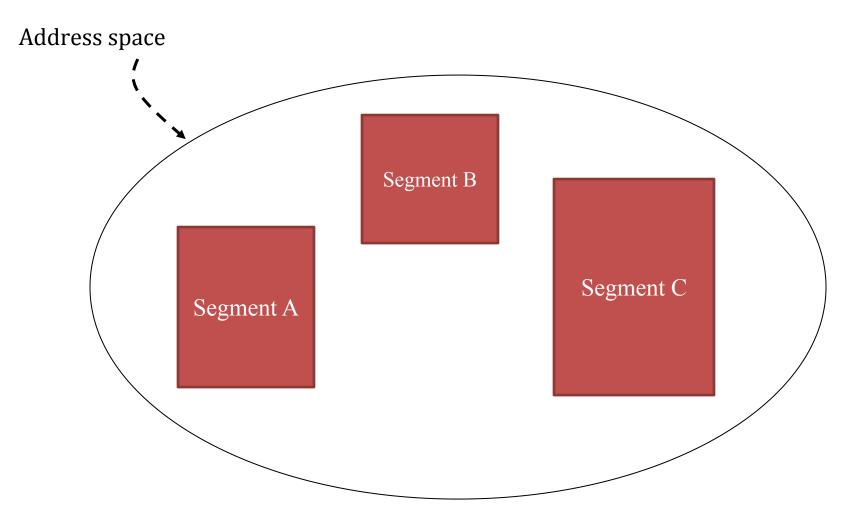
Initial life of the System

- The power-sequencing CPLD can de-assert the reset line to the processor
- At this point, the system is in a very basic state:
 - Caches are disabled
 - The Memory Management Unit (MMU) is disabled
 - The CPU is executing in **Real Mode** (8086-compatible)
 - Only one core can run actual code
 - Nothing is in RAM (what to execute?)





Segmented Memory



logical address = <seg.id : offset> (e.g. <A : 0x10>)



Segmentation-based addressing

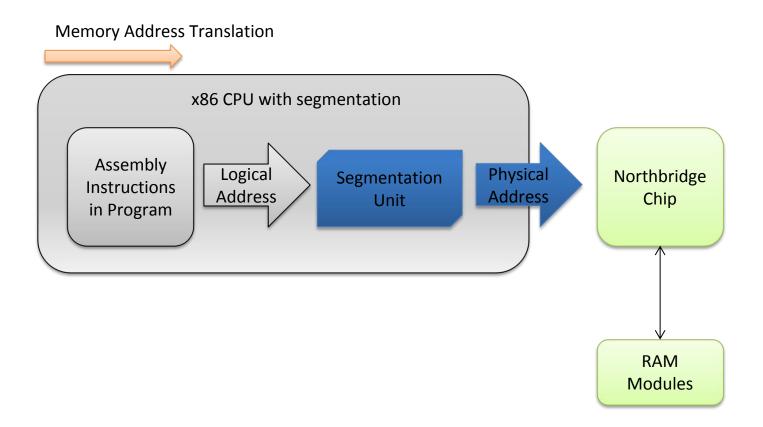
- There are 4 basic 16-bit segment registers:
 - CS: code segment
 - DS: data segment
 - SS: stack segment
 - ES: extra segment (to be used by the programmer)
- Intel 80386 (1985) added two new registers
 - FS and GS, with no predefined usage





Segmentation-based addressing

The CPU resolves addresses as:







Segmentation Nowadays

- Segmentation is still present and always enabled
- Each instruction that touches memory implicitly uses a segment register:
 - a jump instruction uses CS
 - a push instruction uses SS
- Most segment registers can be loaded using a mov instruction
- CS can be loaded only with a jmp or a call





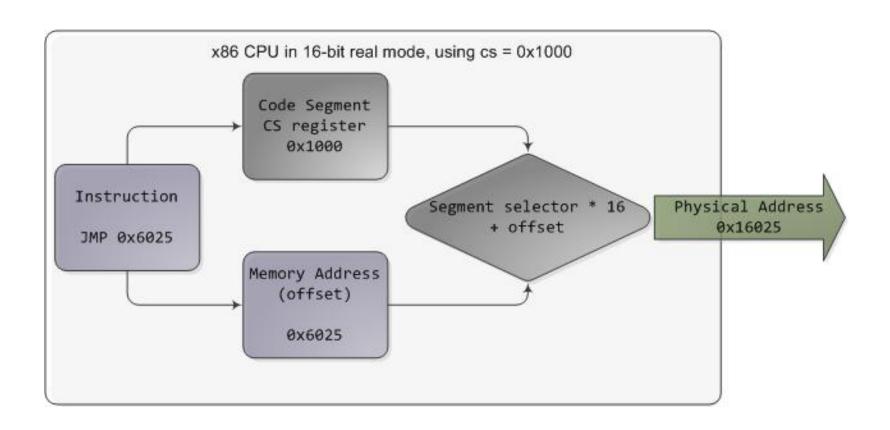
x86 Real Mode

- 16-bit instruction execution mode
- 20-bit segmented memory address space
 - 1 MB of total addressable memory
- Address in segment registers is the 16-bits higher part
- Each segment can range from 1 byte to 65,536 bytes (16-bit offset)





Real Mode Addressing Resolution







Addressing in x86 Real Mode

FFFF: FFFF Segment 3 Segment address: 0x28C0 Start of segment 3 Address: 0x28C0:0000 - or -0x2143:0x77D0 Linear address: 0x28C00 Growing Start of segment Segment 2 Physical Address: 0x2143:0000 Segment address: 0x2143 Linear address: 0x21430 Addresses Segment 1 Segment address: 0x0CEF Start of segment Address: 0x0CEF:0000 Linear address: 0x0CEF0 0000:0000





Addressing in x86 Real Mode

Segment 3 Segment address: 0x28C0 Start of segment 3 Address: 0x28C0:0000 - or -0x2143:0x77D0 Linear address: 0x28C00 Start of segment Segment 2 Address: 0x2143:0000 Segment address: 0x2143 Linear address: 0x21430 Segment 1 Segment address: 0x0CEF Start of segment Address: 0x0CEF:0000 Linear address: 0x0CEF0

FFFF:FFFF

Weren't they 20 bits?

Growing Physical Addresses

0000:0000

Main memory



Addressing in x86 Real Mode

Segment 3 Segment address: 0x28C0 Start of segment 3 Address: 0x28C0:0000 - or -0x2143:0x77D0 Linear address: 0x28C00 Start of segment Segment 2 Address: 0x2143:0000 Segment address: 0x2143 Linear address: 0x21430 Segment 1 Segment address: 0x0CEF Start of segment Address: 0x0CEF:0000 Linear address: 0x0CEF0

FFFF:FFFF

Weren't they 20 bits?

Largest address is FFFFF!

Growing Physical Addresses

0000:0000

Main memory



First Fetched Instruction

- The first fetched address is F000: FFF0
 - This is known as the *reset vector*
 - On IBM PCs this is mapped to a ROM: the BIOS
 - This gives space only to 16 bytes from the top of ROM memory:

ljmp \$0xf000,\$0xe05b

This is where the BIOS code is loaded



BIOS Operations

- The BIOS first looks for video adapters that may need to load their own routines
 - These ROMs are mapped from C000:0000 to C780:0000
- Power-On Self-Test (POST)
 - Depends on the actual BIOS
 - Often involves testing devices (keyboard, mouse)
 - Video Card Initialization
 - RAM consistency check





BIOS Operations

- Boot configuration loaded from CMOS (64 bytes)
 - For example, the boot order
- Shadow RAM initialization
 - The BIOS copies itself into RAM for faster access
- The BIOS tries to identify the Stage 1 bootloader, (512 bytes) using the specified boot order and loads it to memory at 0000:7c00
- Control is given with:

ljmp \$0x0000,\$0x7c00





The RAM after the BIOS startup

BIOS ROM

16-bit devices, expansion ROM

VGA Display

Low Memory

———— 0x00100000 **(1 Mb)**

← 0x000F0000 (960 Kb)

← 0x000C0000 (768 Kb)

0x000A0000 (640 Kb)

The bootloader is loaded here

_____ 0x0000000

The only available "RAM" in the early days





Boot Sequence

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Initializes the user environment (e.g., single-user mode, multiuser, graphical, ...)





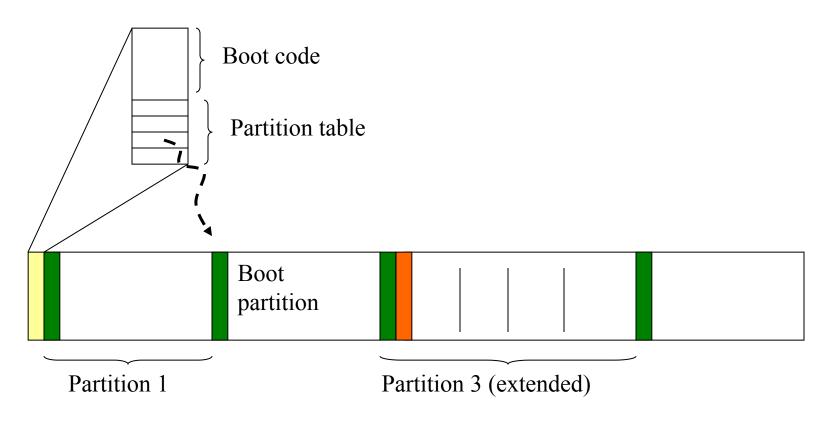
The Boot Sector

- The first device sector keeps the so called Master Boot Record (MBR)
- This sector keeps executable code and a 4-entry partition table, identifying different device partitions (in terms of its positioning on the device)
- In case the partition is extended, then it can additionally keep up to 4 sub-partitions (extended partition)





The Device Organization



- Boot sector: it can contain additional boot code
- Extended partition boot record





- This implements the Stage 1 bootloader
- (Less than) 512 bytes can be used to load the operating system

Offset	Size (bytes)	Description
0	436 (to 446, if you need a little extra)	MBR Bootstrap (flat binary executable code)
0x1b4	10	Optional "unique" disk ID ¹
0x1be	64	MBR Partition Table, with 4 entries (below)
0x1be	16	First partition table entry
0x1ce	16	Second partition table entry
0x1de	16	Third partition table entry
0x1ee	16	Fourth partition table entry
0x1fe	2	(0x55, 0xAA) "Valid bootsector" signature bytes





- The initial bytes of the MBR can contain the BIOS Parameter Block (BPB)
- It is a data structure describing the physical layout of a data storage volume
 - It is used, e.g., by FAT16, FAT32, and NTFS
- This eats up additional space, and must be placed *at the beginning* of the MBR!
 - How to execute the code?



```
.code16
                               Sides: .short 2
 .text
                               HiddenSectors: .int 0
.globl start;
                               LargeSectors: .int 0
                               DriveNo: .short 0
                               Signature: .byte 41 #41 = floppy
start:
jmp .stage1 start
                               VolumeID: .int 0x00000000
                               VolumeLabel: .string "myOS"
OEMLabel: .string "BOOT"
                               FileSystem: .string "FAT12"
BytesPerSector: .short 512
SectorsPerCluster: .byte 1
                                .stage1 start:
ReservedForBoot: .short 1
                                   cli # Disable interrupts
NumberOfFats: .byte 2
                                   xorw %ax, %ax # Segment zero
RootDirEntries: .short 224
                                   movw %ax, %ds
Logical Sectors: .short 2880
                                   movw %ax, %es
MediumByte: .byte 0x0F0
                                   movw %ax, %ss
SectorsPerFat: .short 9
SectorsPerTrack: .short 18
```



```
.code16
                               Sides: .short 2
 .text
                               HiddenSectors: .int 0
.globl start;
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start:
jmp .stage1 start
                               VolumeID: .int 0x00000000
                               VolumeLabel: .string "myOS"
OEMLabel: .string "BOOT"
                               FileSystem: .string "FAT12"
BytesPerSector: .short 512
SectorsPerCluster: .byte 1
                                .stage1 start:
ReservedForBoot: .short 1
                                   cli # Not safe here!
NumberOfFats: .byte 2
                                   xorw %ax, %ax # Segment zero
RootDirEntries: .short 224
                                   movw %ax, %ds
Logical Sectors: .short 2880
                                   movw %ax, %es
                                                 What about CS?
MediumByte: .byte 0x0F0
                                   movw %ax, %ss
SectorsPerFat: .short 9
SectorsPerTrack: .short 18
```



The Stage 1 Bootloader must...

- Enable address A20
- Switch to 32-bit protected mode
- Setup a stack
- Load the kernel
 - Yet, the kernel is on disk: how to navigate the file system? There is not much space for code...
 - Load the Stage 2 bootloader!





A20 Enable

- Intel 80286 increased the addressable memory to 16 Mb (24 address lines)
- How to keep backward compatibility with 8086?
 - "wrap-around" problem
 - By default address line 20 is forced to zero!
- How to enable/disable this line?
 - Use the 8042 keyboard controller (sic!)
 - It had a spare pin which they decided to route the A20 line through



A20 Enable

- The output port of the keyboard controller has a number of functions.
- Bit 1 is used to control A20:
 - -1 = enabled
 - -0 = disabled
- Port 0x64 is used to "communicate" an operation to the controller
 - 0xd1 means "write"
- 0xdd and 0xdf enable/disable A20, when sent to port 0x60
 - You have to wait for previous operations to complete (the controller is slow)





A20 Enable

```
call wait for 8042
 movb $0xd1, %al #command write
  outb %al, $0x64
  call wait for 8042
 movb $0xdf, %al # Enable A20
  outb %al, $0x60
  call wait for 8042
wait for 8042:
  inb %al, $0x64
  tesb $2, %al # Bit 2 set = busy
  jnz wait for 8042
  ret
```

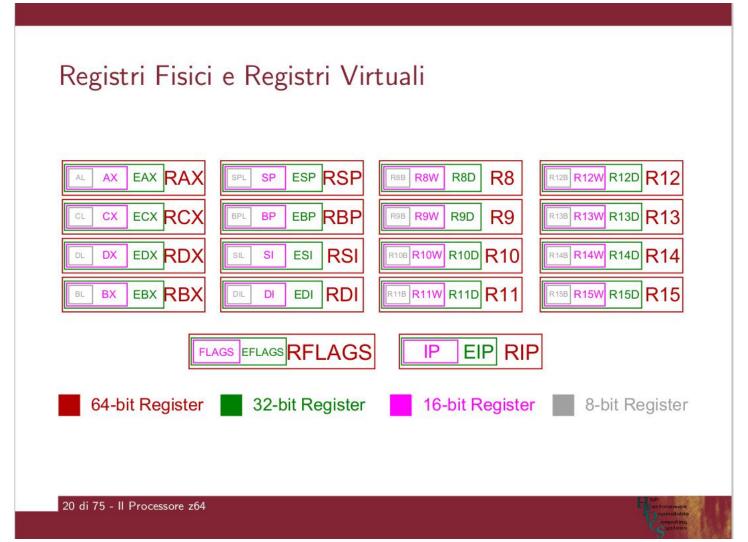


x86 Protected Mode

- This execution mode was introduced in 80286 (1982)
- With 80386 (1985) it was extended by adding paging
- CPUs start in Real Mode for backwards compatibility
- Still today, x86 Protected Mode must be activated during system startup



x86_64 Registers





x86_64 Registers

ZMMO) YMI	10 N	XMM0	ZN	1M1	١	/MM1	XMM1	ST(0)	MM0	ST(1)	MM1	AH	AX EAX	RAX	R8 [888	R8D R1	2 R128 R12W R12D	CR0	CR4	
ZMM2	2 YMI	1 2 [XMM2	ZN	1M3	١	YMM3	XMM3	ST(2)	MM2	ST(3)	MM3	811	BX EBX	RBX	R9	R9D R1	3 R138 R13W R13D	CR1	CR5	
ZMM4	YMI	14 [XMM4	ZN	1M5	V	YMM5	XMM5	ST(4)	MM4	ST(5)	MM5	[CH	icx ECX	RCX	R10 RIGRION	R10D R1	4 R140 R14D	CR2	CR6	
ZMM6	YMI	И 6 [XMM6	ZN	1M7	١	YMM7	XMM7	ST(6)	MM6	ST(7)	MM7	Он	EDX EDX	RDX	R11	R11D R1	_5 [R158 R15W] R15D	CR3	CR7	
ZMM8	3 YMI	/18 [XMM8	ZN	1M9	١	/MM9	XMM9						BP EBP	RBP	DI EDI F	RDI	ESP RIP	CR3	CR8	
ZMM1	.0 YMY	/10 C	XMM10	ZN	1M1:	1	/MM11	XMM11	CW	FP_IP	FP_DP	FP_CS		SI ESI	RSI	SP ESP F	RSP		MSW	CR9	
ZMM1	.2 YM	/12 [XMM12	ZN	1M13	3	/MM13	XMM13	SW											CR10)
ZMM1	.4 YM	/14 [XMM14	ZN	1M15	5	/MM15	XMM15	TW			it Register					•	16-bit Re		CR11	_
ZMM16	ZMM17 ZN	ИМ18	ZMM19	ZMN	Л 20 Z	ZMM2	1 ZMM22	ZMM23	FP_DS		512- 0	it Register		128-010	Register	32-bit	Register	8-bit Reg	ister	CR12	2
ZMM24	ZMM25 ZN	1M26	ZMM27	ZMN	л28 Z	ZMM2	9 ZMM30	ZMM31	FP_OPC	FP_DP	FP_IP	C	S	SS	DS	GDTR	IDTR	DR0	DR6	CR13	3
												Е	S	FS	GS	TR	LDTR	DR1	DR7	CR14	l.
																RFLAGS	FFI AGS FLAGS	DR2	DR8	CR15	MXCSR
																111 127 103		DR3	DR9		
																		DR4	DR10	DR12	DR14
																		DR5	DR11	DR13	DR15





CR0

Bit	Name	Full Name	Description								
0	PE	Protected Mode Enable	If 1, system is in protected mode, else system is in real mode								
1	MP	Monitor co-processor	Controls interaction of WAIT/FWAIT instructions with TS flag in CR0								
2	EM	Emulation	If set, no x87 FPU is present, if clear, x87 FPU is present								
3	TS	Task switched	Allows saving x87 task context upon a task switch only after x87 instruction used								
4	ET	Extension type	On the 386, it allowed to specify whether the external math coprocessor was an 80287 or 80387								
5	NE	Numeric error	Enable internal x87 floating point error reporting when set, else enables PC style x87 error detection								
16	WP	Write protect	When set, the CPU can't write to read-only pages when privilege level is 0								
18	AM	Alignment mask	Alignment check enabled if AM set, AC flag (in EFLAGS register) set, and privilege level is 3								
29	NW	Not-write through	Globally enables/disable write-through caching								
30	CD	Cache disable	Globally enables/disable the memory cache								
31	PG	Paging	If 1, enable paging and use the CR3 register, else disable paging								





Entering Basic Protected Mode

- The code must set bit 0 (PE) of register CR0
- Setting PE to 1 does not immediately activate all its facilities
- It happens when the CS register is first updated
- This can be only done using a far jump (ljmp) instruction, as already mentioned.
- After this, code executes in 32/64-bit mode



Entering Basic Protected Mode

```
ljmp 0x0000, PE mode
 .code32
PE mode:
 # Set up the protected-mode data segment
registers
movw $PROT MODE DSEG, %ax
movw %ax, %ds
movw %ax, %es
movw %ax, %fs
movw %ax, %qs
movw %ax, %ss
```

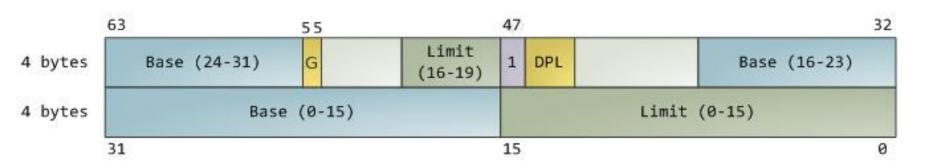
Segment Registers in Protected Mode

- In Protected Mode, a segment is no longer a raw number
- It contains (also) an index into a table of segment descriptors
- There are three types of segments:
 - code
 - data
 - system





Descriptor Table Entry

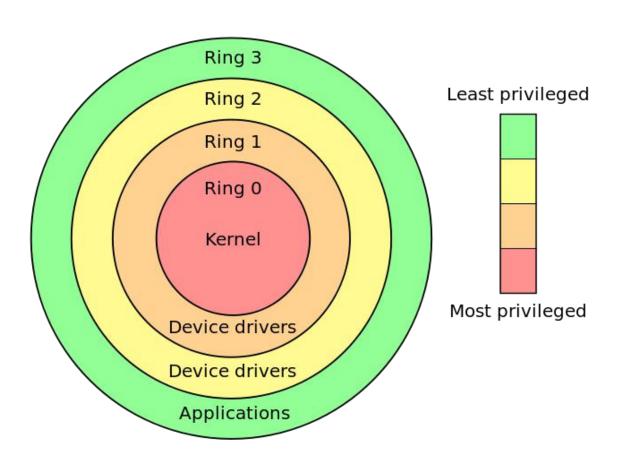


- **Base**: 32-bit linear addressing pointing to the beginning of the segment
- Limit: size of the segment
- **G**: *Granularity*. If set, size is to be multiplied by 4096
- **Descriptor Privilege Level** (DPL): a number in [0-3] to control access to the segment





Protected Mode: Privilege Levels



Ring 3 has restricted access to memory management, instructions execution (around 15 allowed only at ring 0), and I/O ports





Descriptor Tables

- Two tables are available on x86 architectures
- Global Descriptor Table (GDT):
 - This is a system-wide table of descriptors
 - It is pointed by the GDTR register
- Local Descriptor Table (LDT):
 - Pointed by the LDTR register
 - Not used anymore





Segment Selectors

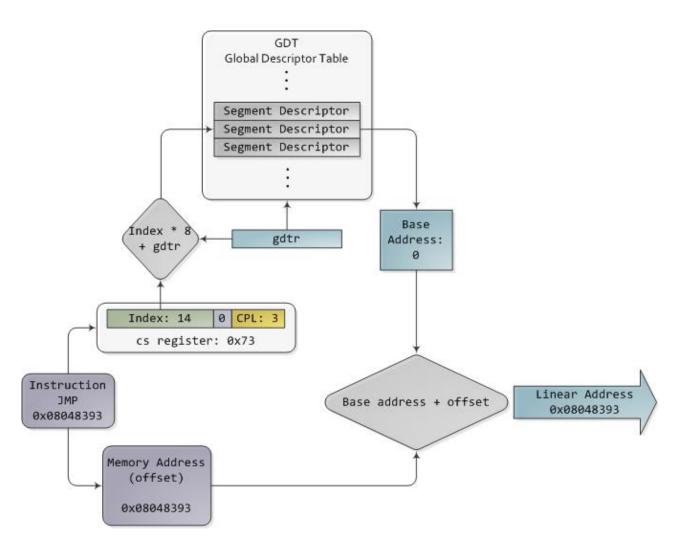


- **TI**: set to 0 for the GDT, set to 1 for the LDT
- Index: specifies the segment selector within the associated table
- Requested Privilege Level (RPL): we'll come to that later





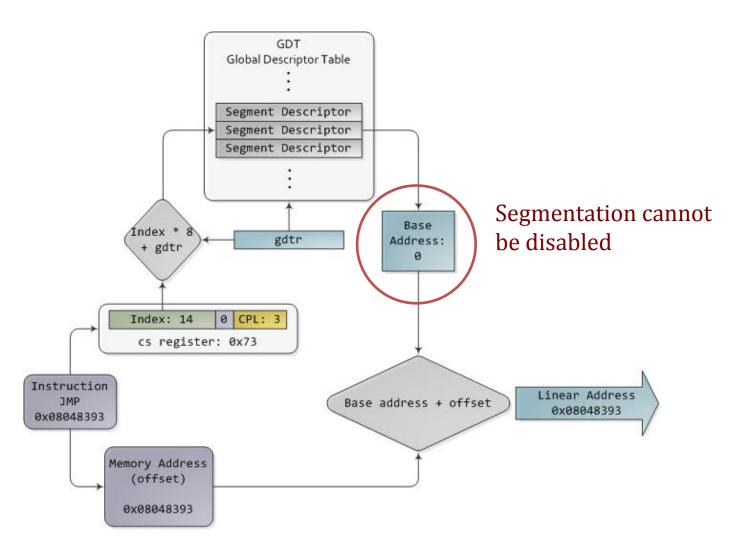
Segmented Addressing Resolution







Segmented Addressing Resolution

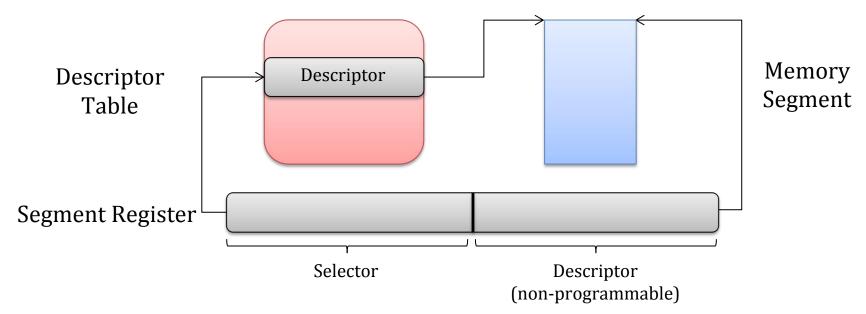






Segment Caching

- Accessing the GDT for every memory access is not performance-wise
- Segment registers have a non-programmable hidden part to store the cached descriptor

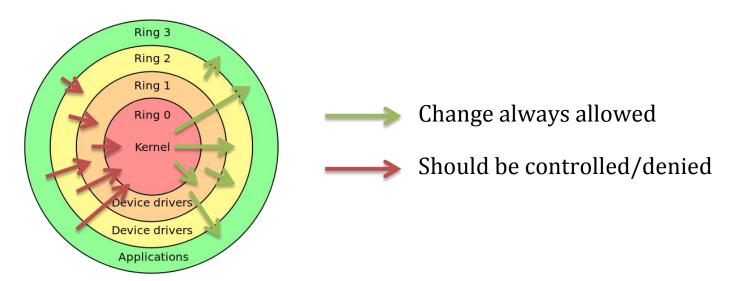






x86 Enforcing Protection

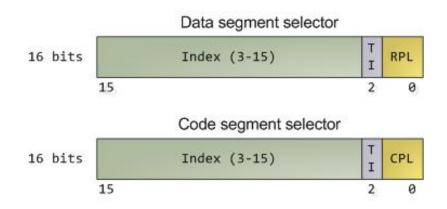
- A Descriptor Entry has a DPL
- The firmware must check if an access to a certain segment is allowed
- There must be a way to change current privilege





Data Segment vs Code Segment

- RPL is present only in data segment selectors (e.g. SS or DS)
- Current Privilege Level
 (CPL): this is only in CS,
 which can be loaded only
 with a limp/lcall



Overall we have 3 different privilege-level fields:
 CPL, RPL, and DPL





Protection upon Segment Load

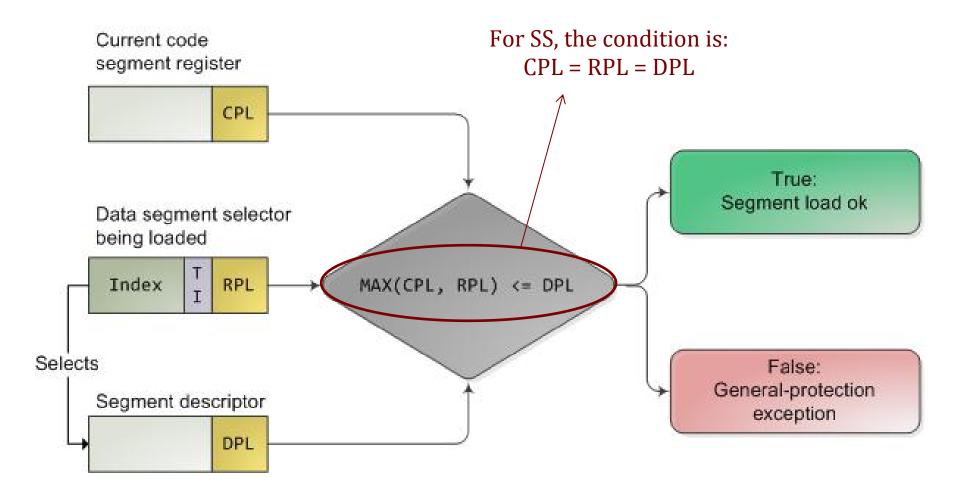
• CPL is managed by the CPU: it's *always* equals to the current CPU privilege level

- CPU Memory protection comes at two points:
 - Memory access via a linear address
 - Data segment selector load operation





Protection upon Segment Load







Getting Higher Privileges

- Accessing segment with a higher privilege (lower ring) with no control might allow malicious code to subvert the kernel
- To control transfer, code must pass through a controlled gate

• **Gate descriptors** are used to identify possible gates through which control can pass

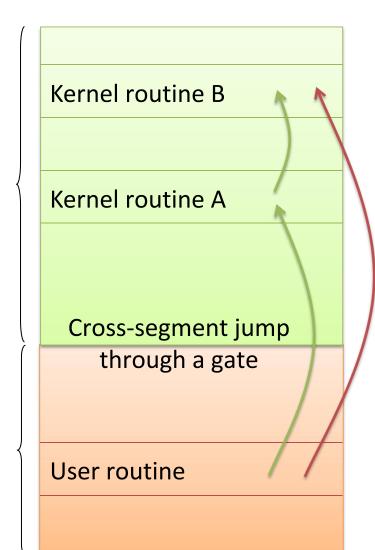




Controlled Access Through Gates

Kernel Space (Ring 0)

User Space (Ring 3)



Non-admitted cross-segment jump





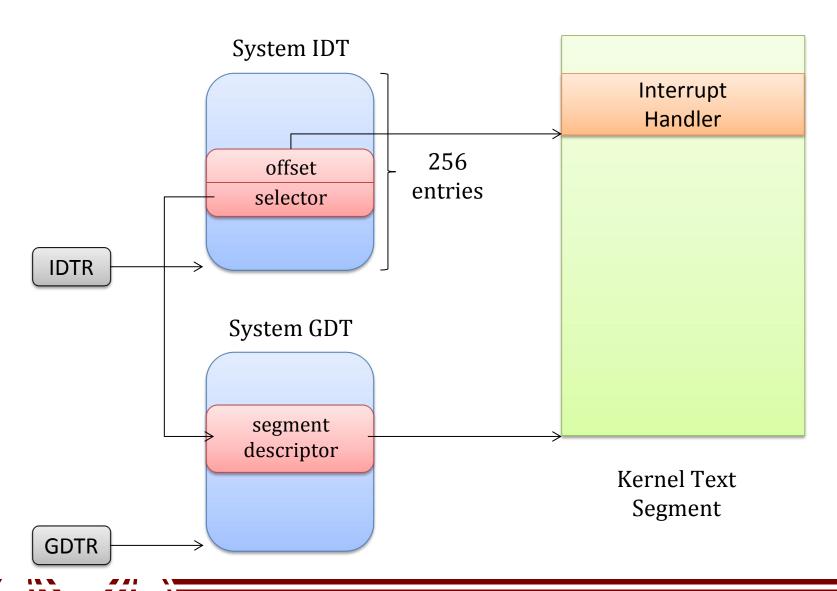
Gate Descriptors

- A gate descriptor is a segment descriptor of type *system*:
 - Call-gate descriptors
 - Interrupt-gate descriptors
 - Trap-gate descriptors
 - Task-gate descriptors
- These are referenced by the Interrupt
 Descriptor Table (IDT), pointed by the IDTR register





IDT and GDT Relations





GDT in Linux

Linux's GDT	Segment Selectors	Linux's GDT	Segment Selectors
null	0x0	TSS	ox80 ← Different for all cores
reserved		LDT	ox88 ← Shared across all cores
reserved		PNPBIOS 32-bit code	0x90
reserved		PNPBIOS 16-bit code	0x98
not used		PNPBIOS 16-bit data	0xa0
not used		PNPBIOS 16-bit data	0xa8
TLS#1	0x33	PNPBIOS 16-bit data	0xb0
TLS #2	0x3b	APMBIOS 32-bit code	0xb8
TLS #3	0x43	APMBIOS 16-bit code	0xc0
reserved		APMBIOS data	0xc8
reserved		not used	
reserved		not used	1
kernel code	0x60 (KERNEL_CS)	not used	
kernel data	0x68 (KERNEL DS)	not used	1
user code	0x73 (USER CS)	not used	
user data	Ox7b (_USER_DS)	double fault TSS	0xf8

There is one copy of this table for each core





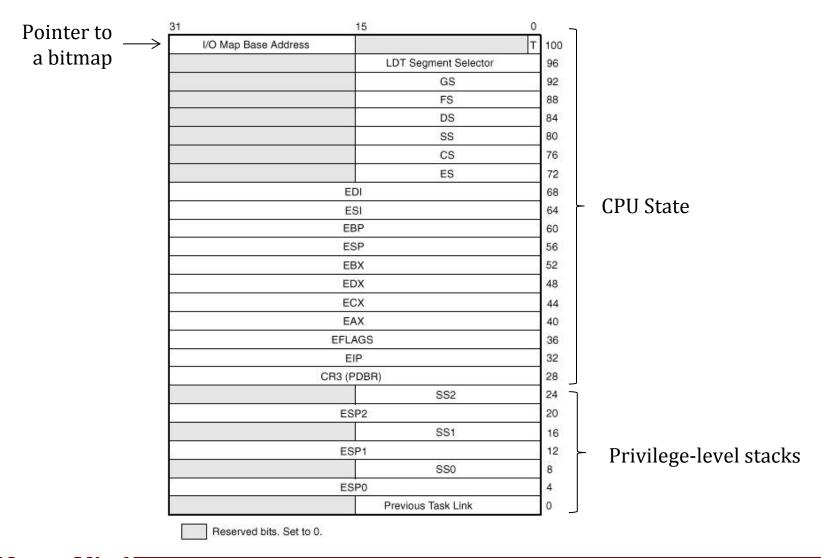
- Its a structure keeping information about a task
- It is intended to handle task management
- It stores:
 - Processor registers state
 - I/O Port Permissions
 - Inner-level Stack Pointers
 - Previous TSS link





- It can be everywhere in memory (hence the GDT entry required to access it)
- On Linux, it's in kernel data memory
- Each TSS is stored in the int_tss array.
- The selector is kept in the Task Register (TR)
- It can be loaded using the privileged ltr instruction (CPL = 0)









- The *Base* field within the *n*-th core TSS register points to the *n*-th entry of the int_tss array
- G=0 and Limit=0xeb
 - given that TSS is 236 bytes in size
- *DPL*=0
 - •TSS cannot be accessed in user mode





TSS on x64

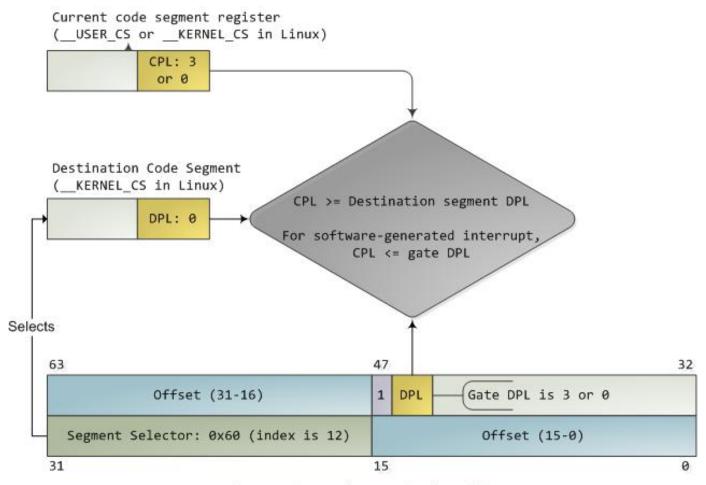
I/O Map Base Address	
17 O Map Base Address	
IST7 (high)
IST7	
IST6 (
IST6	
IST5 (
ISTS	
IST4 (
IST4	
IST3 (
IST3	
IST2 (
IST2	(low)
IST1 ((high)
IST1	(low)
	(high)
RSP2	
RSP1	
RSP1	
	(high)
RSP0	(low)

- Registers are gone.
- The Interrupt Stack Table (IST) identifies 7 stack pointers to handle interrupts
- Entries in the IDT are modified to allow picking one of these stacks
- Value 0 tells the firmware not to use the IST mechanism





Entering Ring 0 from Ring 3



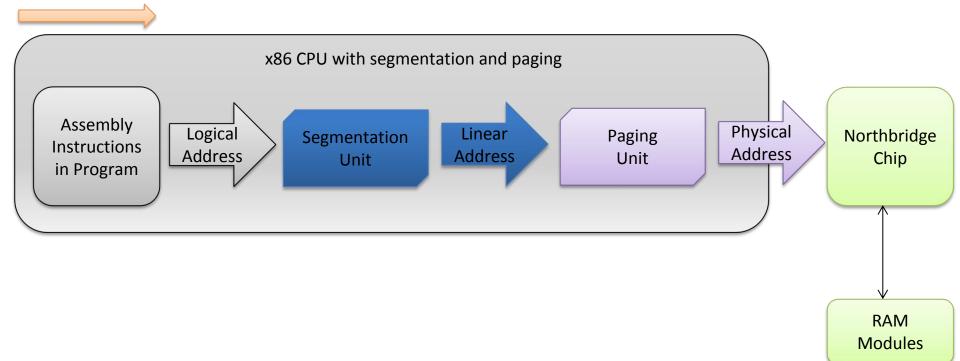




Protected Mode Paging

 Since 80386, x86 CPUs add an additional step in address translation

Memory Address Translation







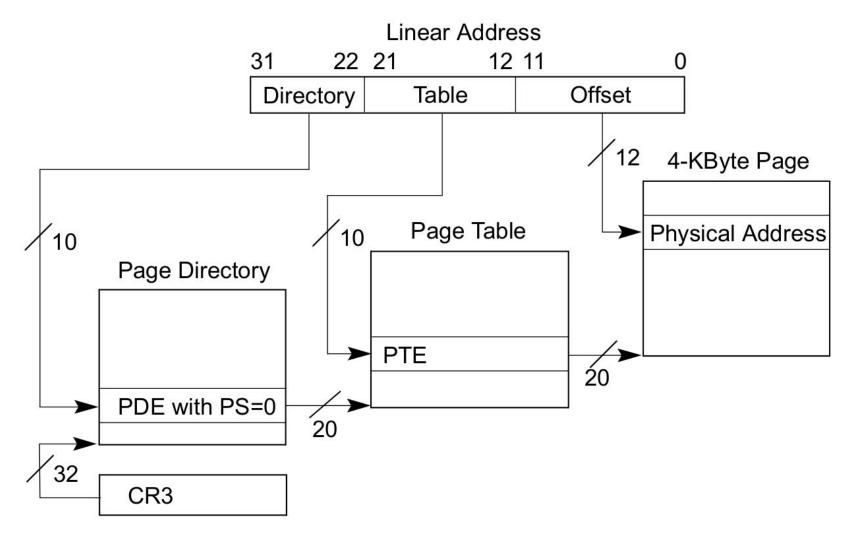
Protected Mode Paging

- Paging has to be explicitly enabled
 - Entering Protected Mode does not enable it automatically
 - Several data structures must be setup before

 Paging allows to manage memory protection at a smaller granularity than segmentation



i386 Paging Scheme







i386 Paging Scheme

- Both levels are based on 4 KB memory blocks
- Each block is an array of 4-byte entries
- Hence we can map 1K x 1K pages
- Since each page is 4 KB in size, we get a 4 GB virtual addressing space



i386 PDE entries

Page-Directory Entry (4-KByte Page Table)

31		12	11 9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	Page-Table Base Address		Avail	G	PS	0	А	PCD	P W T	U / S	R / W	Р
	Available for system programmer's use Global page (Ignored) ————————————————————————————————————											



i386 PTE entries

Page-Table Entry (4-KByte Page)

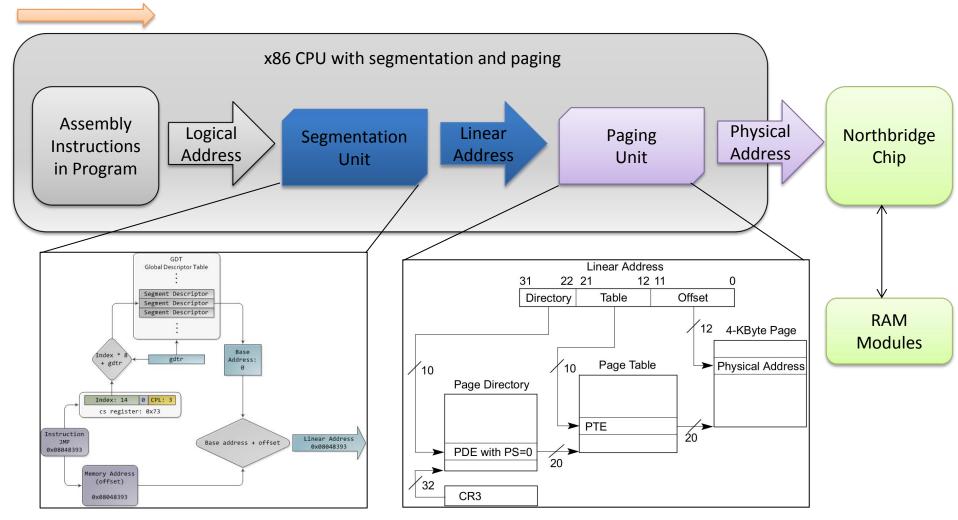
31		12	11	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	Page Base Address		Avail	İ	G	P A T	D	Α	PCD	P W T	U / S	R / W	Р
G P D A C W U R	Available for system programmer's use Blobal Page (TLB caching policy) Page Table Attribute Index Coccessed (Sticky bit) Cache Disabled Vrite-Through Seer/Supervisor Present Present												





Virtual to Physical Translation

Memory Address Translation



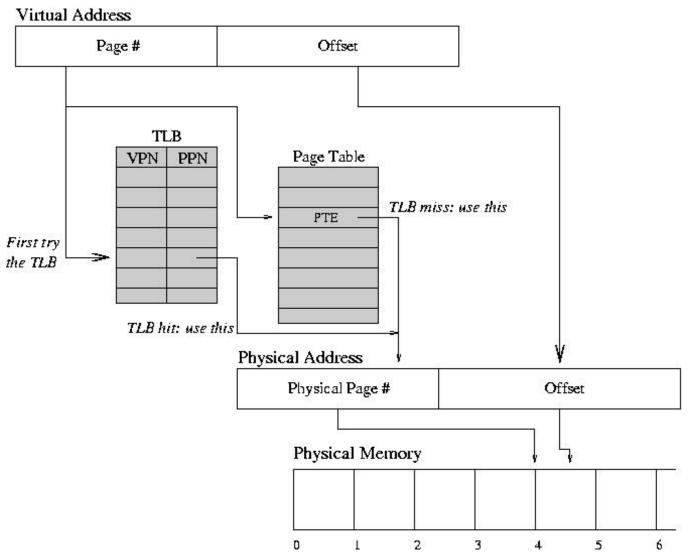


Paging Unit Operations

- Upon a TLB miss, firmware accesses the page table
- The first checked bit is PRESENT
- If this bit is zero, a page fault occurs which gives rise to a trap
- CPU registers (including EIP and CS) are saved on the system stack
- They will be restored when returning from trap: the trapped instruction is re-executed
- Re-execution might give rise to additional traps, depending on firmware checks on the page table
- As an example, the attempt to access a read only page in write mode will give rise to a trap (which triggers the **segmentation fault handler**)



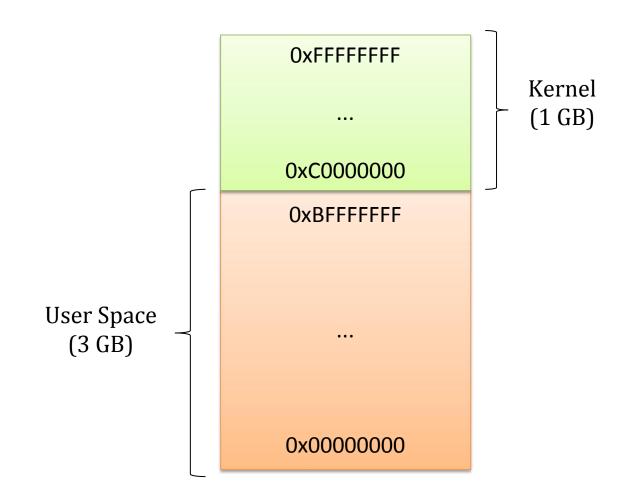
Translation Lookaside Buffer







Linux memory layout on i386







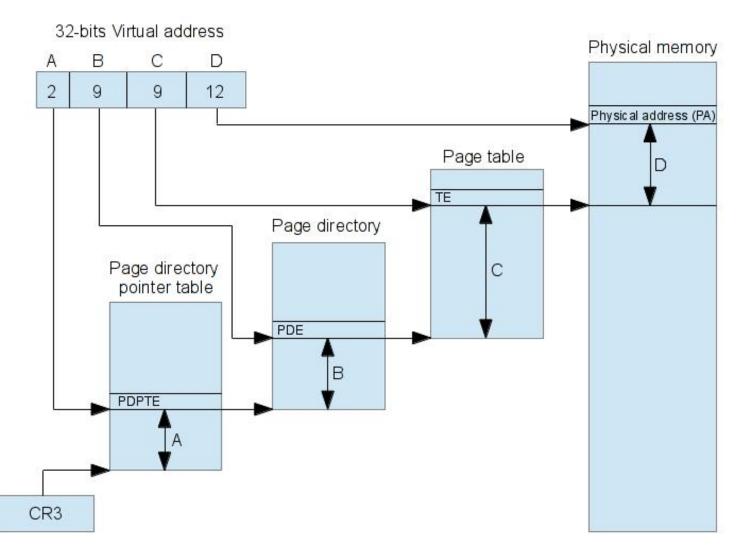
Physical Address Extension (PAE)

- An attempt to extend over the 4GB limit on i386 systems
- Present since the Intel Pentium Pro
- Supported on Linux since kernel 2.6
- Addressing is extended to 36 bits
- This allows to drive up to 64 GB of RAM memory
- Paging uses 3 levels
- CR4.PAE-bit (bit 5) tells if PAE is enabled





Physical Address Extension (PAE)







x64 Paging Scheme

- PAE is extended via the so called "long addressing"
- 2⁶⁴ bytes of logical memory in theory
- Bits [49-64] are short-circuited
 - Up to 248 canonical form addresses (lower and upper half)
 - A total of 256 TB addressable memory
- Linux currently allows for 128 TB of logical addressing of individual processes and 64 TB for physical addressing





Canonical Addresses

64-bit

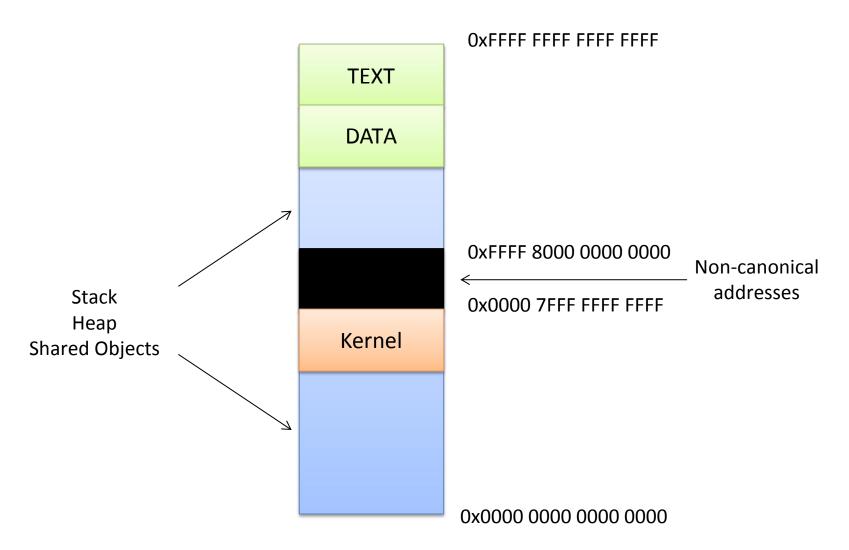


48-bit





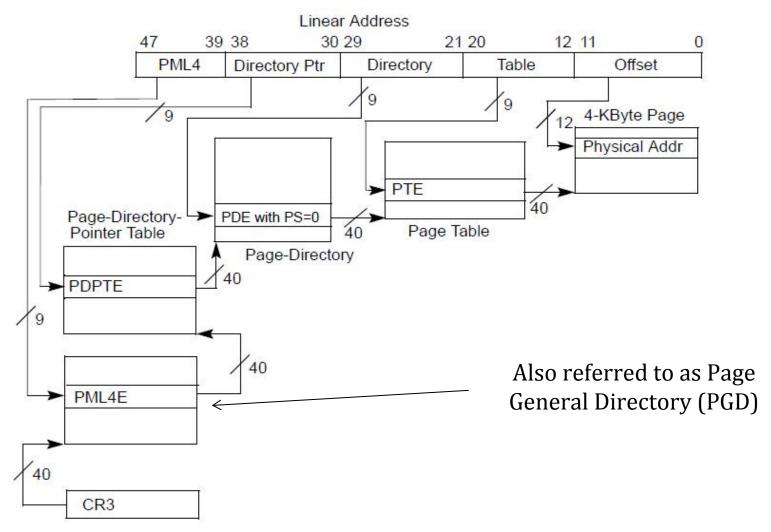
Linux memory layout on x64







48-bit Page Table (4KB pages)





CR3 and Paging Structure Entries

6 6 3 2	6 6 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	5 1 M ¹	M-1 3 3 3 3 2 2 1 0 9	2	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 9 8 7 6 5 4	1 1 1 3 2 1	1 0 9 8 7	65	4 3 2 1	0	
	Reserved ²		Address of PML4 table			100	Ignore		P CW Ign OT	T	CR3
X D 3	Ignored	Rsvd.	Address of page-directory-pointer table				Ign. R	g A (PUR W/SW	1	PML4E: present
Ignored										0	PML4E: not present
X D	Ignored	Rsvd.	Address of 1GB page frame Reserved A T			P A T			DT ¹ 3W	1	PDPTE: 1GB page
X D	Ignored	Rsvd.	Address of page directory Ign. D I A C W / S / W						1	PDPTE: page directory	
Ignored										<u>0</u>	PDTPE: not present
X D	Ignored	Rsvd.		ress of age frame	Reserved	P A T	gn. G <u>1</u>	DA	PUR W/SW	1	PDE: 2MB page
X D	Ignored	Rsvd.	Address of page table Ign. D I A C W /S W						1	PDE: page table	
										0	PDE: not present
X D	Ignored	Rsvd.	Address of 4KB page frame Ign. G P D A C W /S W						1	PTE: 4KB page	
Ignored										<u>0</u>	PTE: not present





Huge Pages

- Ideally x64 processors support them starting from PDPT
- Linux typically offers the support for huge pages pointed by the PDE (page size 512*4KB)
- See: /proc/meminfo and $/proc/sys/vm/nr_hugepages$
- These can be mmap'ed via file descriptors and/or mmap parameters (e.g. MAP_HUGETLB flag)
- They can also be requested via the madvise (void *, size_t, int) system call (with MADV_HUGEPAGE flag)



How to enable x64 longmode

- The first step is (of course) to setup a coherent page table
- We must then tell the CPU to enable Long Mode
- Refer to arch/x86/include/uapi/asm/msr-index.h for the definition of the symbols

```
movl $MSR_EFER, %ecx
rdmsr
btsl $_EFER_LME, %eax
wrmsr
pushl $__KERNEL_CS
leal startup_64(%ebp), %eax
pushl %eax
movl $(X86_CR0_PG | X86_CR0_PE), %eax
movl %eax, %cr0
lret
```





Boot Sequence

BIOS/UEFI

The actual Hardware Startup

Bootloader Stage 1

Executes the Stage 2 bootloader (skipped in case of UEFI)

Bootloader Stage 2

Loads and starts the Kernel

Kernel Startup

The Kernel takes control of and initializes the machine (machine-dependent operations)

Init

First process: basic environment initialization (e.g., SystemV Init, systemd)

Runlevels/Targets

Initializes the user environment (e.g., single-user mode, multiuser, graphical, ...)





Second Stage Bootloader

- There are various versions of this software
 - In GRUB it is GRUB Stage 2
 - In Win NT it is c:\ntldr
- The second stage bootloader reads a configuration file, e.g. to startup a boot selection menu
 - grub.conf in GRUB, boot.ini in Win NT
- The kernel initial image is loaded in memory using BIOS disk I/O services
 - For Linux, it is /boot/vmlinuz-*
 - For Win NT, it is c:\Windows\System32\ntoskrnl.exe



Historical Linux Bootcode

- The historical bootsector code for LINUX (i386) is in arch/i386/bootsect.s (no longer used)
- It loaded arch/i386/bootsetup.s and the kernel image in memory
- The code in arch/i386/bootsetup.s initialized the architecture (e.g. the CPU state for the actual kernel boot)
- It ultimately gave control to the initial kernel image





Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI)

- Modular (you can extend it with drivers)
- Runs on various platforms
- It's written in C
- It supports a bytecode (portability to other architectures)

• It's completely different from BIOS





UEFI Boot

- UEFI boot manager takes control right after the system is powered on
- It looks at the boot configuration
- It loads the firmware settings into RAM from nvRAM
- Startup files are stored on a dedicated EFI System Partition (ESP)
 - It's a FAT32 partition
 - It has one folder for each OS on the system
- MBR cannot handle disks larger than 2TB





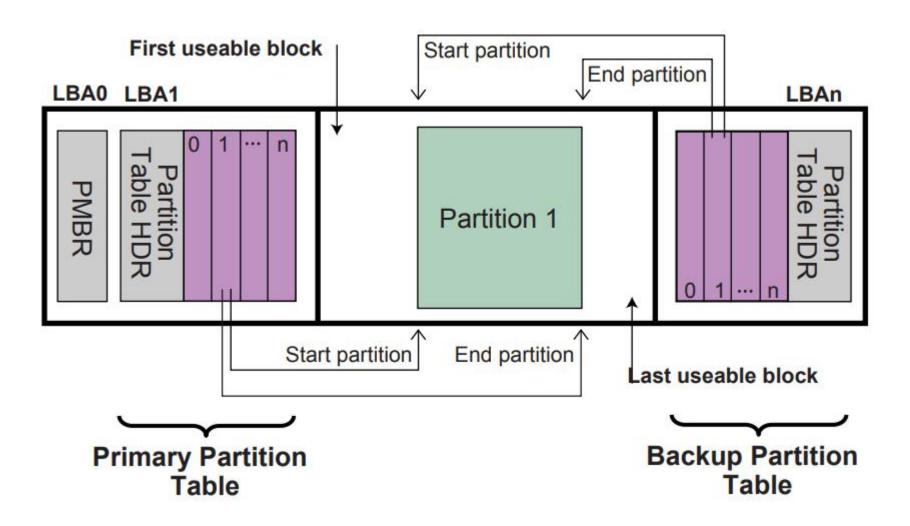
UEFI Boot

- It can automatically detect new uefi-boot targets
 - UEFI uses standard path names
 - /efi/boot/boot x64.efi
 - /efi/boot/bootaa64.efi
- UEFI programs can be easily written





GUID Partition Table





Secure Boot

- There is a kind of malware which takes control of the system before the OS starts
 - MBR RootKits
- Usually, these RootKits hijack the IDT for I/O operations, to execute their own wrapper
- When the kernel is being loaded, the RootKit notices that and patches the binary code while loading it into RAM





Secure Boot

- UEFI allows to load only signed executables
- Keys to verify signatures are installed in UEFI configuration
 - Platform Keys (PK): tells who "owns and controls" the hardware platform
 - Key-Exchange Keys (KEK): shows who is allowed to update the hardware platform
 - Signature Database Keys (DB): show who is allowed to boot the platform in secure mode





Dealing with multicores

- Who shall execute the startup code?
- For legacy reasons, the code is purely sequential
- Only one CPU core (the master) should run the code

- At startup, only one core is active, the others are in an idle state
- The startup procedure has to wake up other cores during kernel startup





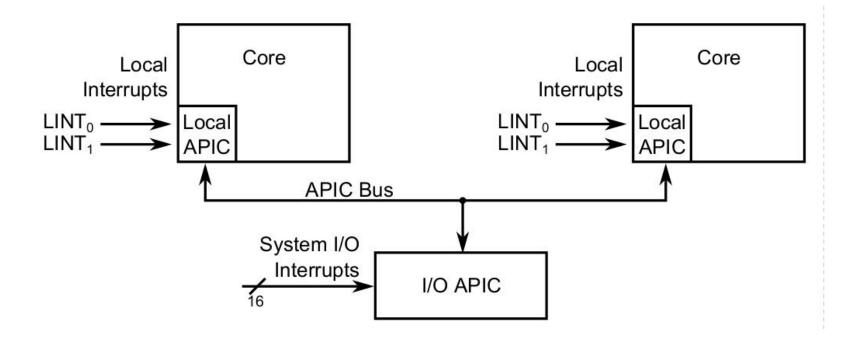
Interrupts on Multicore Architectures

- The Advanced Programmable Interrupt Controller (APIC) is used for sophisticated interrupt sending/redirection
- Each core has a Local APIC (LAPIC) controller, which can send Inter-Processor Interrupts (IPIs)
 - LAPICs are connected through the (logical) "APIC Bus"
 - LINT 0 : normal interrupts LINT 1 : Non-maskable Interrupts
- I/O APICs contain a redirection table, which is used to route the interrupts it receives from peripheral buses to one or more local APICs





LAPIC







Interrupt Control Register

- The ICR register is used to initiate an IPI
- Values written into it specify the type of interrupt to be sent, and the target core

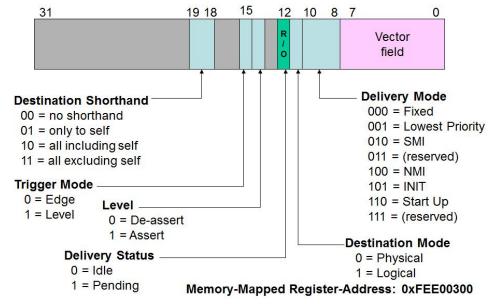
ICR (upper 32-bits)



The Destination Field (8-bits) can be used to specify which processor (or group of processors) will receive the message

Memory-Mapped Register-Address: 0xFEE00310

ICR (lower 32-bits)







Broadcast INIT-SIPI-SIPI Sequence

```
# address Local-APIC via register FS
              $sel fs, %ax
    mov
             %ax, %fs
    mov
# broadcast 'INIT' IPI to 'all-except-self'
              $0x000C4500, %eax; 11 00 0 1 0 0 0 101 00000000
    mov
    mov %eax, %fs:(0xFEE00300)
.B0: btl $12, %fs:(0xFEE00300)
    jС
             .B0
# broadcast 'Startup' IPI to 'all-except-self'
# using vector 0x11 to specify entry-point
# at real memory-address 0x00011000
              $0x000C4611, %eax ; 11 00 0 0 1 0 0 0 110 00010001
    mov
              %eax, %fs:(0xFEE00300)
    mov
.B1: btl $12, %fs:(0xFEE00300)
    ic .B1
```

