

CS 250

OPERATING SYSTEMS

Lecture 6

Address Space

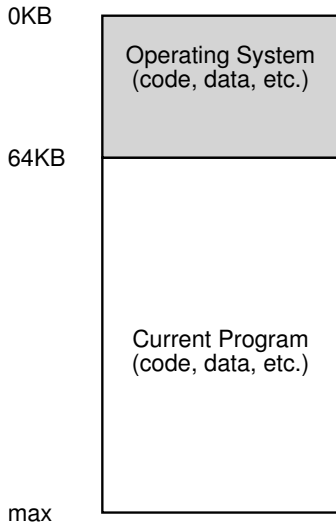
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How to virtualize memory?

How can the OS build this abstraction of a private, potentially large address space for multiple running processes (all sharing memory) on top of a **single**, physical memory?

A Historical Perspective

- ▶ Early Systems
- ▶ The OS \equiv a set of routines
- ▶ Only one running program
- ▶ Few illusions!



- ▶ Multiple processes
- ▶ Ready to run at a given time
- ▶ The OS had a new task
- ▶ Switch between them

Goals

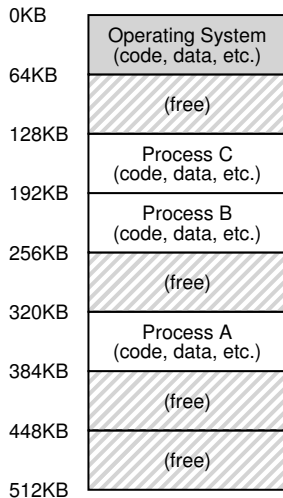
- ▶ Effective utilization
- ▶ Efficiency

- ▶ Interactivity
- ▶ Many users concurrently using a machine

Can you suggest one possible solution?

- ▶ How did we do this in case of CPU virtualization?
- ▶ Can we follow the same approach?
- ▶ What are the issues?

The physical memory allocated to a process could be non-contiguous too



Task

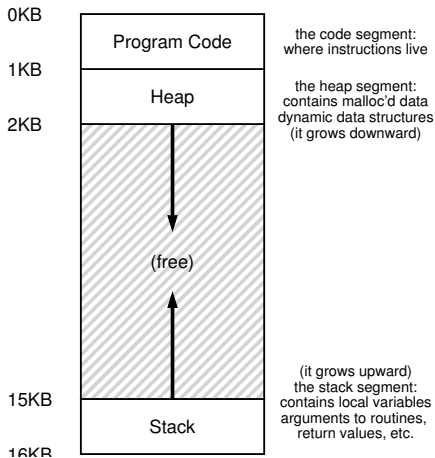
To create an easy to use abstraction of physical memory

Address Space

The running programs view of memory in the system.

- ▶ A process has a set of addresses that map to bytes
- ▶ This set is called address space
- ▶ How can we provide a private address space?

What is in the address space?

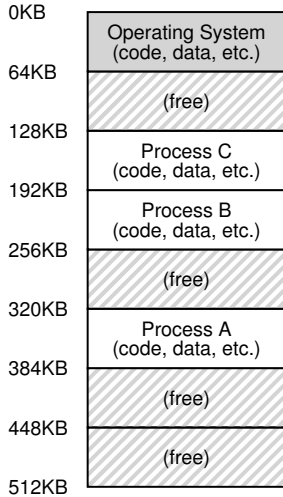



```
int x;  
int main(int argc, char* argv[]) {  
    int y;  
    int *z = malloc(sizeof(int));  
}
```

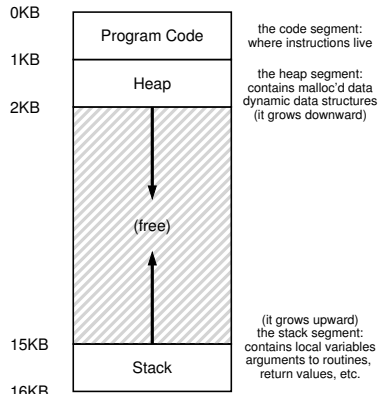
- ▶ `x` → code
- ▶ `main` → code
- ▶ `y` → stack
- ▶ `z` → heap

How are code, stack, heap arranged in this address space? Why?

Process A tries to perform a load at address 0



Actual View



View of Process A

- ▶ Virtual addresses (VA) to physical addresses (PA)
- ▶ CPU issues loads/stores to VA
- ▶ Memory hardware accesses PA
- ▶ OS allocates memory and tracks location of processes
- ▶ Memory Management Unit (MMU): memory hardware that does the translation
- ▶ OS makes the necessary information available

- ▶ One of the primary things that the OS achieves by abstracting out the physical memory
- ▶ What is the implication?

HW

Short Notes

- ▶ Microkernel
- ▶ Monolithic Kernel

- ▶ Transparency
- ▶ Efficiency
- ▶ Protection

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <stdlib.h>

int main(int argc, char *argv[]) {
printf("location of code   : %p\n", main);
printf("location of heap   : %p\n", malloc(1));
int x = 3;
printf("location of stack : %p\n", &x);
return 0;
}
```

```
location of code   : 0x55658716e6fa
location of heap    : 0x556587aa2670
location of stack   : 0x7ffdc2c26b4
```

`malloc()` and `free`

Are these system calls?

- ▶ `malloc` library manages space within virtual address space
- ▶ Depends on some other system calls
- ▶ `brk/sbrk`
- ▶ Alternatively, `mmap()`

- ▶ Common mistakes while handling memory
- ▶ Using tools like `valgrind` and `purify`