DCS216 Operating Systems

Lecture 18 Memory (1)

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Content

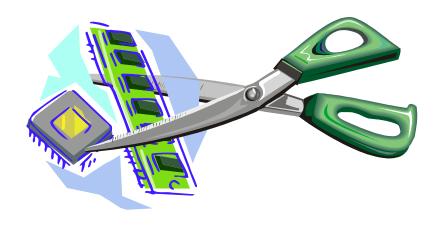
- Basic Concepts
 - Main Memory
 - Hardware Memory Protection
 - Address Binding
 - Logical Address vs. Physical Address
 - Static Linking vs. Dynamic Linking vs. Dynamic Loading
- Swapping
- Memory Partition
 - Fixed Partition \Rightarrow internal fragmentation
 - Variable Partition \Rightarrow external fragmentation
- Segmentation (分段)

Virtualizing Resources

Physical Reality:

Different processes/threads sharing the same hardware.

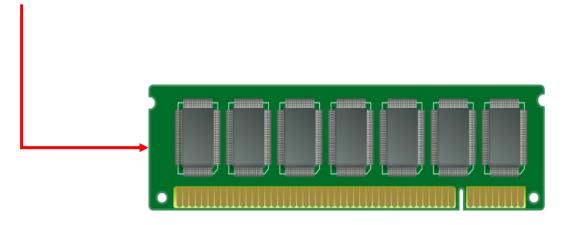
- Need to multiplex CPU (just finished: processes/threads, scheduling)
- Need to multiplex Memory (starting today)
- Need to multiplex **Disk** and **I/O devices** (later...)





Background

- The main purpose of a computer system is to execute programs.
- During execution, these programs must be brought (from disk) into main memory (at least partially) in order to run.



Main memory, or RAM module

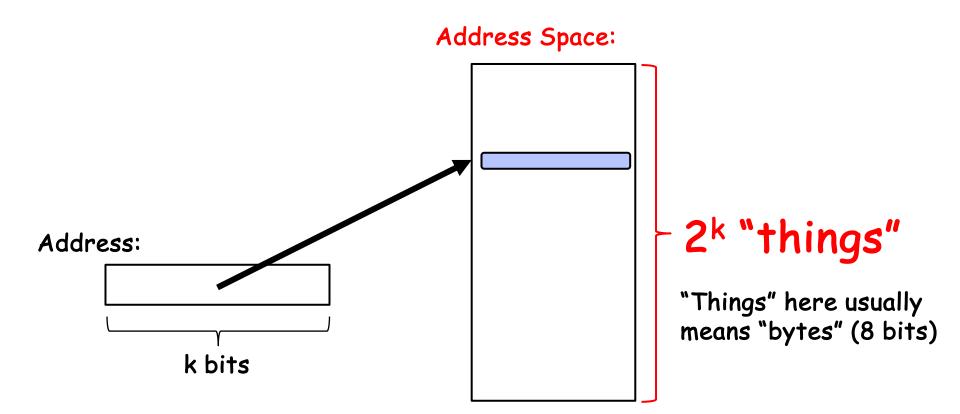
The CPU can directly access only
Main Memory



Background

- The main purpose of a computer system is to execute programs.
- During execution, these programs must be brought (from disk) into main memory (at least partially) in order to run.
- Memory consists of a large array of words or bytes, each with its own address
- The CPU fetches instructions from memory according to the value of the PC (program counter, or instruction pointer)
- These instructions may cause additional loading from and storing to specific memory addresses.

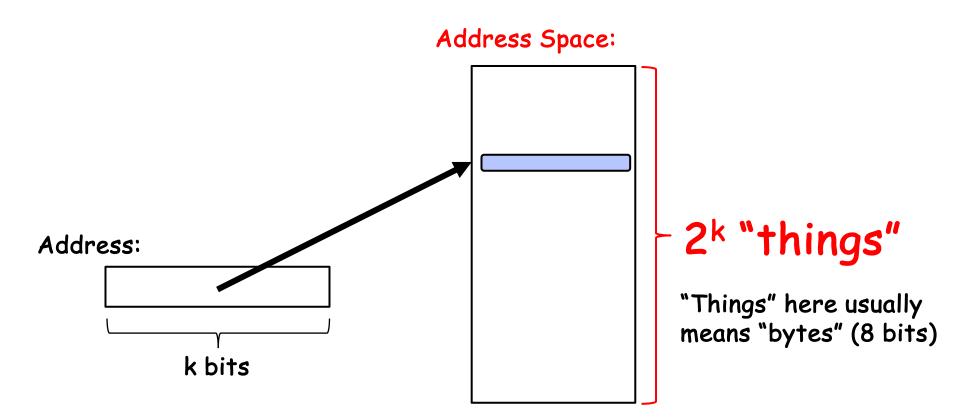
Address vs. Address Space





Address vs. Address Space

For example, in x86, each (virtual) address has 32 bits, thus the address space is $2^{32} \approx 4$ billion bytes



Basic Hardware

■ The CPU can directly access **only**Main Memory

- There are machine instructions that take memory addresses as arguments, but none that take disk addresses.
- So, any instructions in execution, and any data being used by the instructions, must be in one of these direct-access storage devices.
- If the data are not in memory, they must be moved there before the CPU can operate on them.



CPU Cycle Time for accessing memories

- Registers: Accessible within one cycle of the CPU clock
 - Most CPUs can decode instructions and perform simple operations on register contents at the rate of one or more operations per clock tick.
- Main Memory: Access may take many cycles of the CPU clock
 - In this case, the processor normally needs to stall, since it does not have the data required to complete the instruction that it is executing.

L1 cache reference	0	.5 ns
Branch mispredict	5	ns
L2 cache reference	7	ns
Mutex lock/unlock	25	ns
Main memory reference	100	ns
Compress 1K bytes with Zippy	3,000	ns
Send 2K bytes over 1 Gbps network	20,000	ns
Read 1 MB sequentially from memory	250,000	ns
Round trip within same datacenter	500,000	ns
Disk seek	10,000,000	ns
Read 1 MB sequentially from disk	20,000,000	ns
Send packet CA->Netherlands->CA	150,000,000	ns



- E.g., Simple Batch Processing System (单道批处理系统)
- The OS is merely a set of routines (a library)
 - starting at address OKB, for example
- There can be only ONE running program
 - starting at address 64KB, for example
 - ...and occupying the rest of memory

0KB

64KB

OS
(code,data,etc.)

Current Program
 (code,data,etc.)



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- The OS is merely a set of routines (a library)
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 - ...and occupying the rest of memory
- Programs executed sequentially
 - one after another

Program Program A

Job Queue

OKB OS

64KB

256KB

(code,data,etc.)

Current Program
 (code,data,etc.)



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- The OS is merely a set of routines (a library)
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Program Program A

Job Queue

OKB _

64KB

OS
(code,data,etc.)

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 - one after another

Program C Program B

Job Queue

0KB

OS
(code,data,etc.)

64KB

Current Program
 (code,data,etc.)



- E.g., Simple Batch Processing System (单道批处理系统)
- The OS is merely a set of routines (a library)
 - starting at address OKB, for example
- There can be only ONE running program
 - starting at address 64KB, for example
 - ...and occupying the rest of memory
- Programs executed sequentially
 - one after another

Program C

Job Queue

0KB

64KB

OS
(code,data,etc.)

Current Program
(code,data,etc.)



- E.g., Simple Batch Processing System (单道批处理系统)
- Limitations:
 - Low CPU Utilization
 - For example, if A performs I/O
 - the CPU is idle.
 - B and C cannot execute
 - because A is not finished.

Program
A

Current Program
(code,data,etc.)

Program Program A

Job Queue

0KB ■

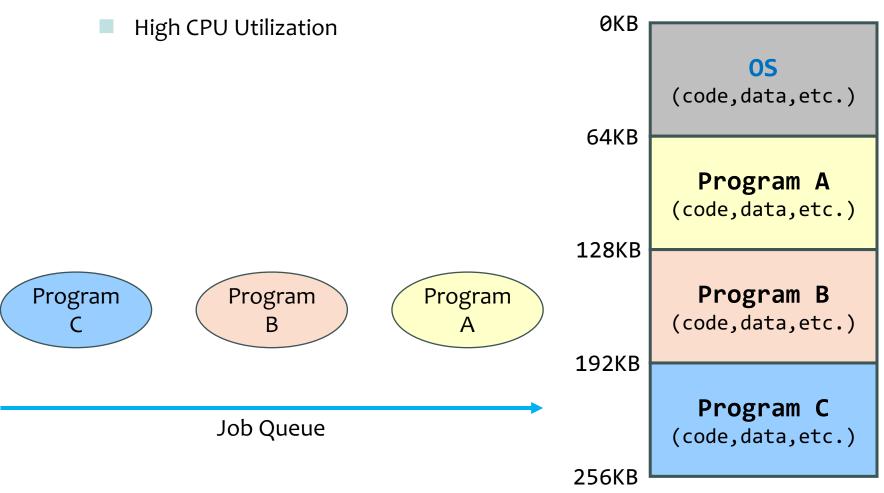
OS
(code,data,etc.)

64KB



Multiprogramming

- Multiple programs loaded in memory (assume enough space)
 - The OS would switch between them.





Multiprogramming

- Multiple programs loaded in memory (assume enough space)
 - The OS would switch between them.
 - High CPU Utilization
- Introduces another problem:
 - No protection!
 - E.g., A can modify the data inB's address space

0x10200: movl 0x21000, %eax
0x10201: addl \$0x1, %eax

0x10202: movl %eax, 0x21000

0KB OS (code,data,etc.) **64KB** Program A {code,data,etc.) 128KB Program B (code, data, etc.) 192KB Program C (code, data, etc.)

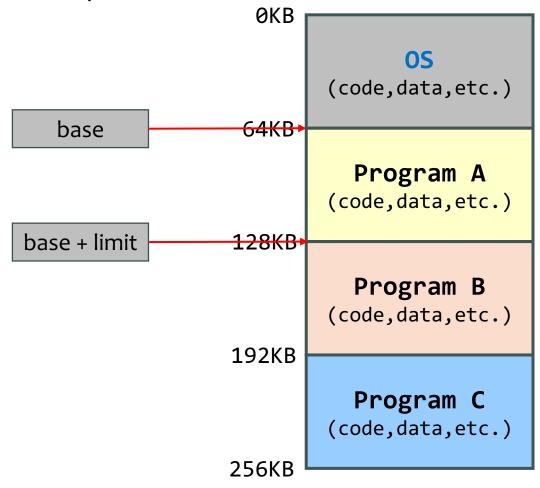


Hardware Address Protection

- The OS has to be protected from user processes
- In addition, user processes must be protected from one another
- This protection must be provided by the hardware.
 - Efficiency and speed
 - Security
 - Reliability
 - Simplicity and Transparency

Hardware Address Protection (Base & Bounds)

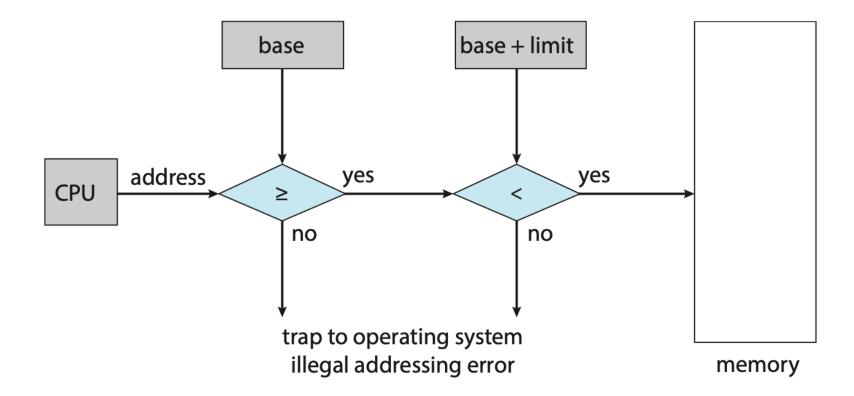
 A pair of base register and limit register (also called bounds) define the logical address space for a process





Hardware Address Protection (Base & Bounds)

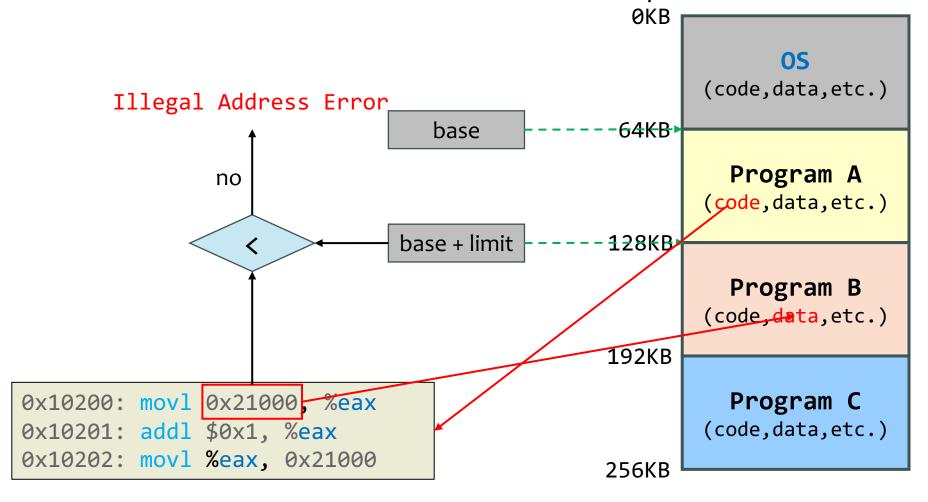
 CPU must check every memory access generated in user mode to make sure it is between base and limit for that process





Multiprogramming (with Base & Bounds)

 CPU must check every memory access generated in user mode to make sure it is between base and limit for that process



- Usually, a program resides on a disk as a binary executable file.
- To be executed, the program must be brought into memory and placed within a process.
- Addresses represented in different ways at different stages of a program's life:
 - Source code addresses usually symbolic.
 - `int add(int a, int b)`
 - Compiler binds symbolic addresses to relocatable addresses
 - 0x000000
 - Linker or Loader binds relocatable addresses to absolute addresses
 - 0x401792
 - Each binding maps from one address space to another.

```
/* main.c */
#include <stdio.h>
#include "utils.h"

int main() {
    int res = add(3, 4);
    printf("add(3, 4): %d\n", res);
    printf("&add(): %p\n", &add);
    return 0;
}
```

```
/* utils.c */
#include "utils.h"

int add(int a, int b) {
   return a + b;
}
```

```
/* utils.h */
#ifndef UTILS_H
#define UTILS_H
int add(int a, int b);
#endif
```

```
gcc -c -o main.o main.c
gcc -c -o utils.o utils.c
gcc -o main -static main.o utils.o
```

```
/* main.c */
#include <stdio.h>
#include "utils.h"

int main() {
    int res = add(3, 4);
    printf("add(3, 4): %d\n", res);
    printf("&add(): %p\n", &add);
    return 0;
}
```

```
/* utils.c */
#include "utils.h"

int add(int a, int b) {
   return a + b;
}
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```
/* utils.h */
#ifndef UTILS_H
#define UTILS_H
int add(int a, int b);
#endif
```

```
💲 gcc -c -o main.o main.c
 gcc -c -o utils.o utils.c
 gcc -o main -static main.o utils.o
 objdump -d --disassemble=add utils.o object file
utils.o: file format elf64-x86-64
Disassembly of section .text: -
000000000000000000 <add>:
        f3 Of 1e fa
                            endbr64
   4:
        55
                            push
                                   %rbp
       48 89 e5
                                   %rsp,%rbp
                            mov
       89 7d fc
                                   %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
                            mov
        89 75 f8
                                   %esi,-0x8(%rbp)
                            mov
        8b 55 fc
                                   -0x4(%rbp),%edx
                            mov
       8b 45 f8
                                   -0x8(%rbp),%eax
  11:
                            mov
       01 d0
                                   %edx,%eax
 14:
                            add
 16:
        5d
                                   %rbp
                            pop
 17:
        c3
                            ret
```

```
/* main.c */
#include <stdio.h>
#include "utils.h"

int main() {
    int res = add(3, 4);
    printf("add(3, 4): %d\n", res);
    printf("&add(): %p\n", &add);
    return 0;
}
```

```
/* utils.c */
#include "utils.h"

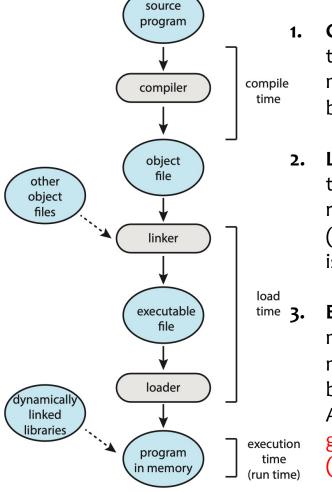
int add(int a, int b) {
   return a + b;
}
```

```
/* utils.h */
#ifndef UTILS_H
#define UTILS_H
int add(int a, int b);
#endif
```

```
💲 gcc -c -o main.o main.c
 gcc -c -o utils.o utils.c
 gcc -o main -static main.o utils.o
 objdump -d --disassemble=add main executable file
main:
         file format elf64-x86-64
Disassembly of section .text;
00000000000401792 <add>:
 401792: f3 0f 1e fa
                            endbr64
 401796: 55
                            push
                                   %rbp
 401797: 48 89 e5
                                   %rsp,%rbp
                            mov
 40179a: 89 7d fc
                                   %edi,-0x4(%rbp)
                            mov
 40179d:
          89 75 f8
                                   %esi,-0x8(%rbp)
                            mov
 4017a0: 8b 55 fc
                                   -0x4(%rbp),%edx
                            mov
 4017a3: 8b 45 f8
                                   -0x8(%rbp),%eax
                            mov
                                   %edx,%eax
 4017a6: 01 d0
                            add
 4017a8:
           5d
                                   %rbp
                            pop
 4017a9:
           c3
                            ret
```



Address binding of instructions and data to (physical) memory addresses can happen at three different stages:



Compile Time: If we know at compile time where the process will reside in memory, then absolute addresses can be generated.

2. Load Time: If it is not known at compile time, then the compiler generates relocatable code. The Loader rewrites (updates) the addresses. This technique is also called static relocation.

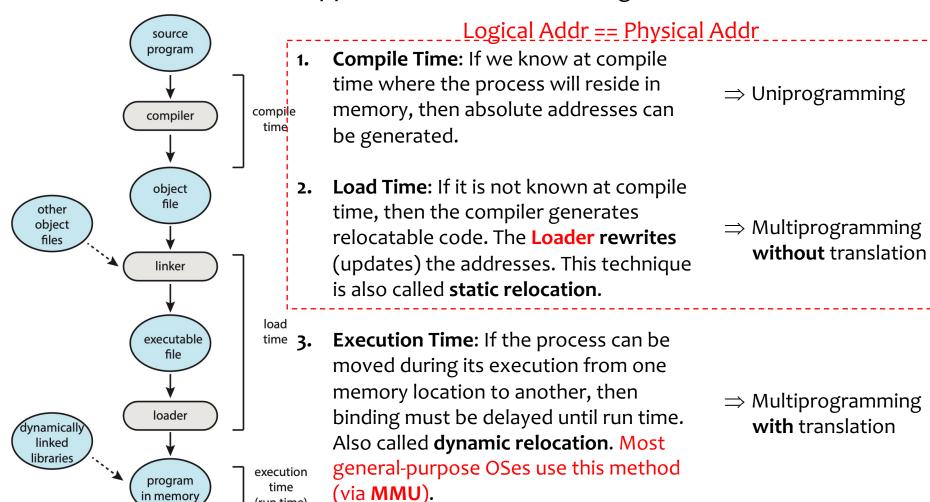
Execution Time: If the process can be moved during its execution from one memory location to another, then binding must be delayed until run time. Also called **dynamic relocation**. Most general-purpose OSes use this method (via MMU).

```
int add(int a, int b) {
   return a + b;
}
```

User Program
(code,data,etc.)



Address binding of instructions and data to (physical) memory addresses can happen at three different stages:



(run time)

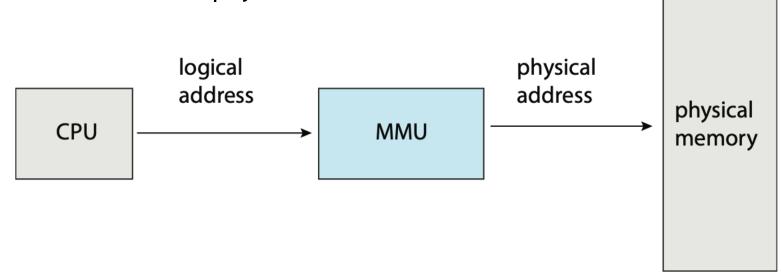
"Every Address You See is Virtual"

```
/* va.c */
#include <stdio.h>
                                                                    Kernel memory
#include <stdLib.h>
                                                         2^{48}-1
                                                                      User stack
                                                                  (created at run time)
int main() {
    printf("Address of CODE: %p\n", main);
    printf("Address of HEAP: %p\n",
            malloc(10e6));
                                                                Memory-mapped region for
    int x = 42;
                                                                    shared libraries
    printf("Address of STACK: %p\n", &x);
    return 0;
                                                                    Run-time heap
                                                                  (created by malloc)
  gcc -static -o va va.c
                                                                  Read/write segment
5 ./va
                                                                     (.data,.bss)
Address of CODE: 0x401745
                                                                Read-only code segment
Address of HEAP: 0x781c4932b010
                                                                (.init,.text,.rodata)
                                                     0x400000
Address of STACK: 0x7ffdec62d214
```



Logical Address Space vs. Physical Address Space

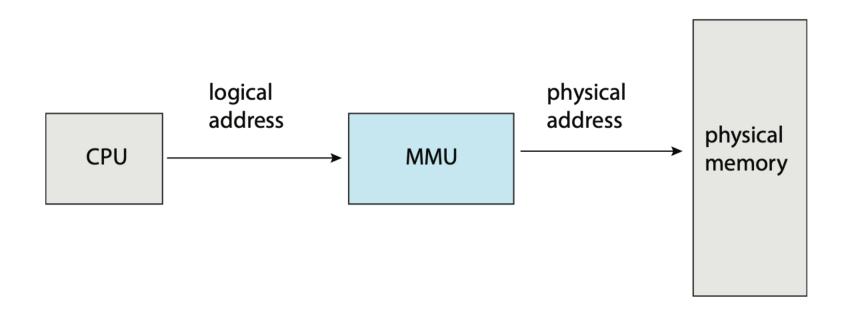
- Logical Address ⇒ An address generated by the CPU
 - also referred to as virtual address.
- Physical Address ⇒ An address seen by the memory-unit, that is, the one loaded into the memory-address register of the memory
- Compile-Time and Load-Time address-binding methods generate identical logical and physical addresses.
- In Execution-Time address-binding scheme, logical address is different from physical address.





Memory-Management Unit (MMU)

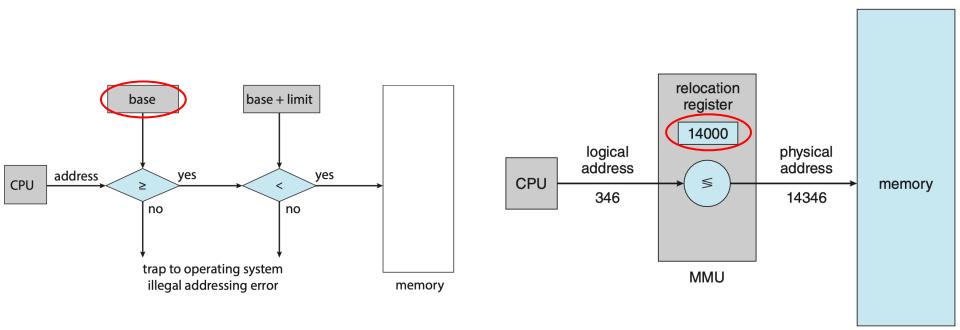
- Memory-Management Unit (MMU) is a hardware device that maps virtual addresses to physical addresses at run time.
 - Many different methods are possible to accomplish such mapping
 - Contiguous Memory Allocation
 - Segmentation
 - Paging
 - ...





Memory-Management Unit (MMU)

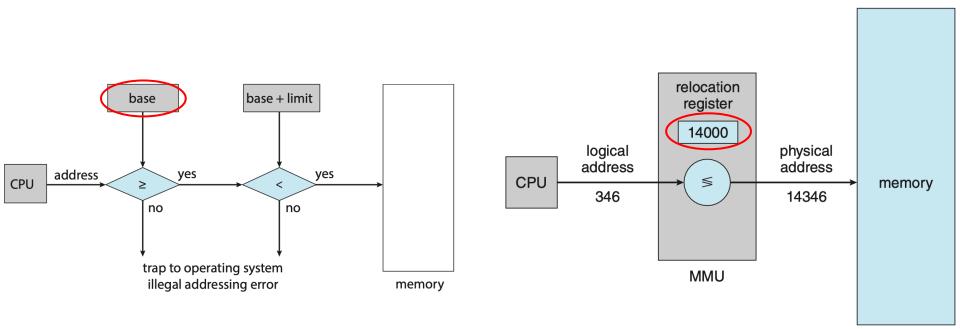
- Consider a simple scheme, which is a generalization of the base and limit registers scheme.
- The base register is now called relocation register.
- The value in the relocation register is added to every address generated by a user process at the time it is sent to memory.





Memory-Management Unit (MMU)

- The user program deals with logical (virtual) addresses; it never sees the real physical addresses.
 - Executime-Time address-binding occurs when reference is made to location in memory.
 - Logical addresses are bound to physical addresses.

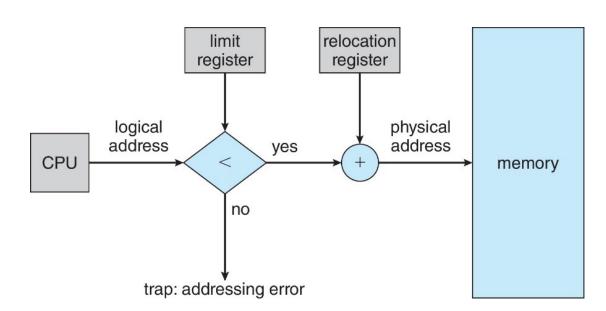




Hardware Support for Dynamic Relocation

- When a process is assigned to the RUNNING state, a relocation/base register gets loaded with the starting physical address of the process.
- A limit/bounds register gets loaded with the process's ending physical address
- When a logical address is encountered, it is added with the content of the relocation register to obtain the physical address.
- Protection: each process can only access memory within its range.

Base&Bound with translation



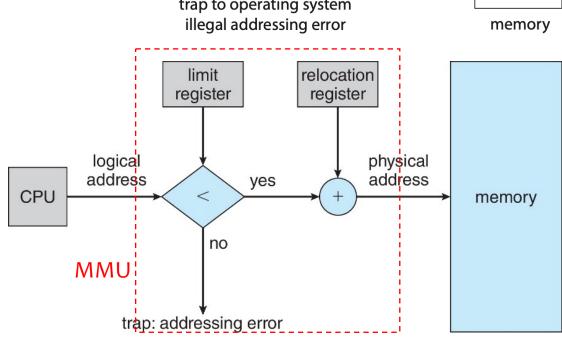


■ Hardware Support for Dynamic Relocation

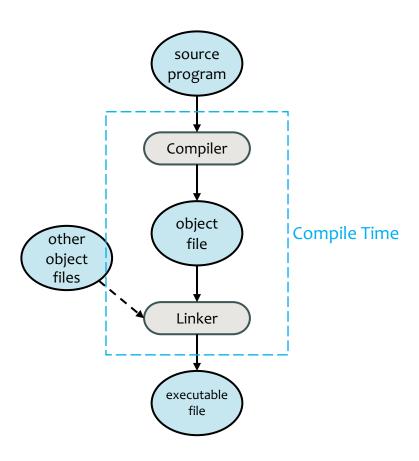
Base&Bound without translation

Dase base + limit yes yes no no no trap to operating system illegal addressing error memory

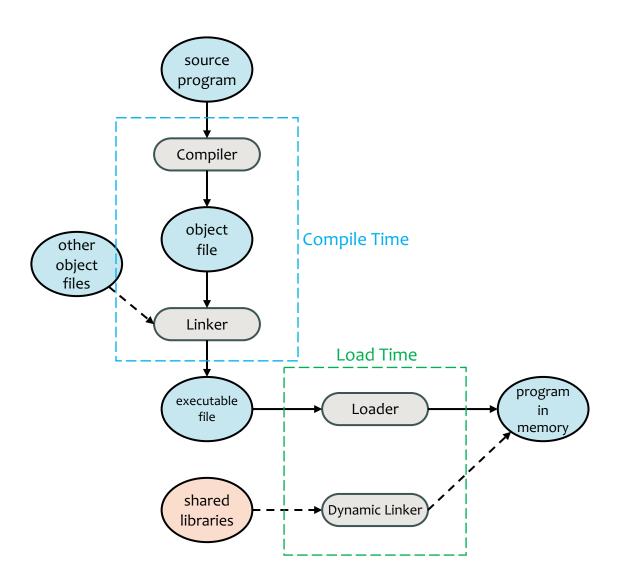
Base&Bound with translation



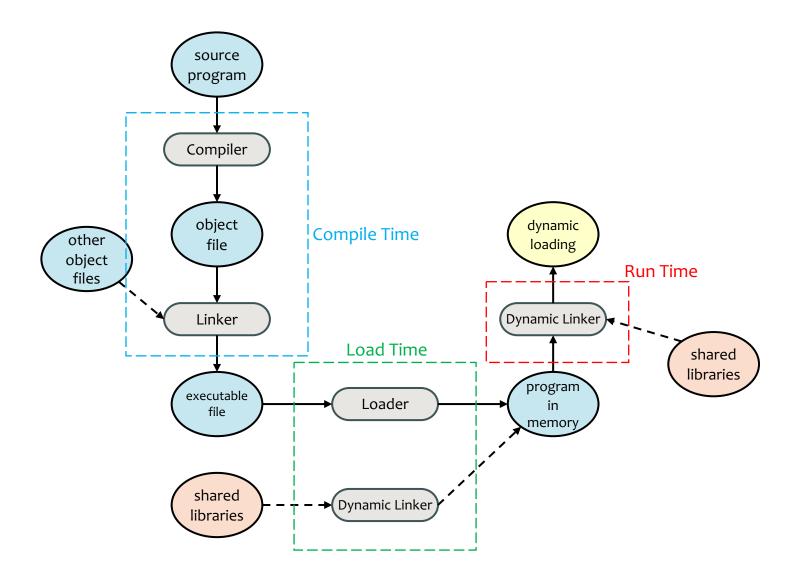
Static Linking



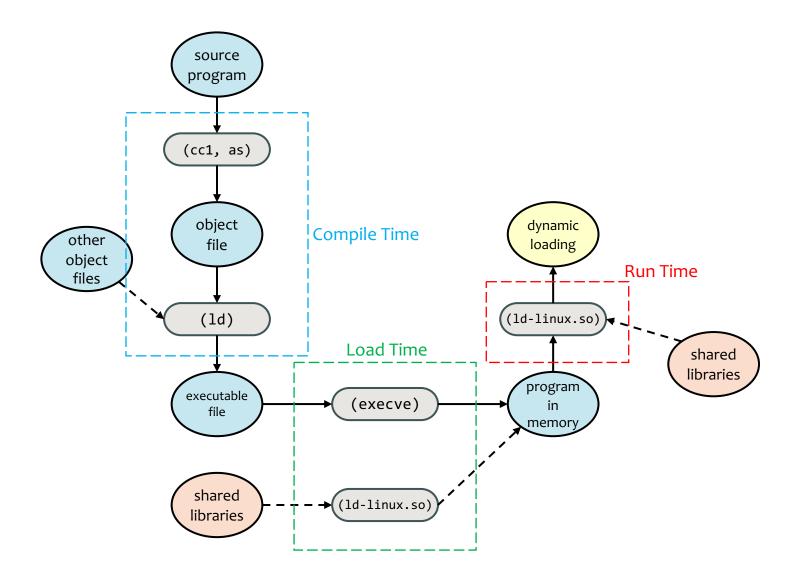
Dynamic Linking



Dynamic Loading



Address Binding



Static Linking

```
/* main.c */
#include <stdio.h>
#include "utils.h"

int main() {
    int res = add(3, 4);
    printf("add(3, 4): %d\n", res);
    printf("&add(): %p\n", &add);
    return 0;
}
```

```
/* utils.c */
#include "utils.h"

int add(int a, int b) {
   return a + b;
}
```

```
/* utils.h */
#ifndef UTILS_H
#define UTILS_H
int add(int a, int b);
#endif
```

```
$ gcc -c -o main.o main.c
$ gcc -c -o utils.o utils.c
$ gcc -o main -static main.o utils.o
$ ./main
add(3, 4): 7
&add(): 0x401792
```

The executable file `main` contains the code for `add()`, which is located in the code segment. If we execute multiple copies of `main`:

```
$ for i in {1..100}; do (./main &); done
```

...then 100 copies of the same code for `add()` will reside in memory \Rightarrow waste of precious memory space!

Dynamic Linking

```
/* main.c */
#include <stdio.h>
#include "utils.h"

int main() {
    int res = add(3, 4);
    printf("add(3, 4): %d\n", res);
    printf("&add(): %p\n", &add);
    return 0;
}
```

```
/* utils.c */
#include "utils.h"

int add(int a, int b) {
   return a + b;
}
```

```
/* utils.h */
#ifndef UTILS_H
#define UTILS_H
int add(int a, int b);
#endif
```

```
$ gcc -c -o main.o main.c
$ gcc -fPIC -shared utils.c -o libutils.so
```

compile into a shared library, or dynamically linked library `libutils.so`.

```
$ gcc main.o -L. -lutils -o main2 -Wl,-rpath=.
```

compile the `main` program and link it dynamically with the shared library `libutils.so`:

- `-L.`: tells the **compiler** to look for libraries in the current directory
- `-lutils`: tell the **dynamic linker** to link against `libutils.so`.
- `-Wl,-rpath=.`: tells the **loader** to look for shared libraries in the current directory at runtime

```
$ for i in {1..100}; do (./main &); done
```

...running multiple copies of the same program will only have **ONE** copy of the code for `add()`

Dynamic Linking

```
Kernel memory
    2^{48}-1
                    User stack
               (created at run time)
            Memory-mapped region for
                  shared libraries
                  Run-time heap
               (created by malloc)
               Read/write segment
                  (.data,.bss)
             Read-only code segment
             (.init,.text,.rodata)
0x400000
        0
```

```
$ gcc -c -o main.o main.c
$ gcc -fPIC -shared utils.c -o libutils.so

compile into a shared library, or dynamically linked
library `libutils.so`.

$ gcc main.o -L. -lutils -o main2 -Wl,-rpath=.

$ ./main2
add(3, 4): 7
&add(): 0x7b68193160f9
```

```
$ ldd ./main2
linux-vdso.so.1 (0x00007fff4a5f9000)
libutils.so => ./libutils.so
(0x0000798be6b5e000)
libc.so.6 => /lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/libc.so.6
(0x0000798be6800000)
/lib64/ld-linux-x86-64.so.2
(0x0000798be6b6a000)
```



Dynamic Linking

```
Kernel memory
    2^{48}-1
                    User stack
               (created at run time)
            Memory-mapped region for
                  shared libraries
                  Run-time heap
               (created by malloc)
               Read/write segment
                  (.data,.bss)
             Read-only code segment
             (.init,.text,.rodata)
0x400000
        0
```

```
gcc -c -o main.o main.c
  gcc -fPIC -shared utils.c -o libutils.so
compile into a shared library, or dynamically linked
library `libutils.so`.
  gcc main.o -L. -lutils -o main2 -Wl,-rpath=.
 ./main2
add(3, 4): 7
&add(): 0x7b68193160f9
 gcc -c -o main.o main.c
 gcc -c -o utils.o utils.c
```

gcc -o main -static main.o utils.o

./main

add(3, 4): 7

&add(): 0x401792

Dynamic Loading

It is also possible for a process to request the dynamic linker to load and link arbitrary shared libraries at run time (after it executes, during, while it is running). This technique is called **Dynamic Loading**.

Dynamic Loading

```
/* main dl.c */
#include <stdio.h>
#include <dlfcn.h>
int main() {
    void *handle;
    int (*add)(int, int);
    handle = dlopen("./libutils.so",
                     RTLD LAZY);
    add = dlsym(handle, "add");
    int res = add(3, 4);
    printf("add(3, 4): %d\n", res);
    printf("&add(): %p\n", &add);
    dlclose(handle);
    return 0;
```

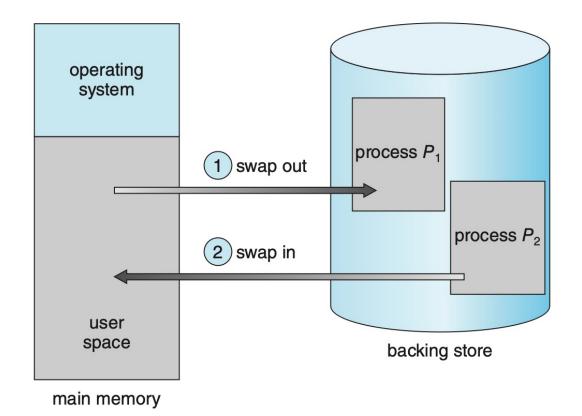
```
$ gcc -fPIC -shared utils.c -o libutils.so
$ gcc -o main_dl main_dl.c -ldl
$ ./main_dl
add(3, 4): 7
&add(): 0x7ffedb9b3ef8
```

- `dlopen` is used to load the shared library into memory at runtime. The library's memory address isn't fixed until this function is called.
- `dlsym` is used to look up the address of the `add` function within the shared library after it has been loaded. This address is resolved at runtime when `dlsym` is called, not before.
- Routine (e.g., `add()`) is not loaded until it is explicitly called ⇒ better memory space utilization
- Useful when large amounts of code are needed to handle infrequently occurring cases
- No special support from the OS is required
 - Implemented through program design
 - OS can help by providing libraries of dynamic loading (e..g, dlopen, dlsym, dlclose)



Swapping

- A process must be in memory to be executed.
- However, it can be temporarily swapped (交換) out of memory to a backing store (后备存储), and then brought back into memory for continued execution.





Swapping

- A process must be in memory to be executed.
- However, it can be temporarily swapped (交換) out of memory to a backing store (后备存储), and then brought back into memory for continued execution.
- Swapping makes it possible for the total physical address space of all processes to exceed the real physical memory of the system.
 - thus increasing the degree of multiprogramming.



Context Switch Time and Swapping

- If next process to be put on CPU is not in memory, then the OS need to swap out a process and swap in the target process.
- Context switch time can be very high.
- 100MB process swapping to disk with transfer rate of 50MB/sec
 - Swap out time: $\frac{100MB}{50MB/s} = 2000ms$
 - Plus swap in of same sized process
 - Total context switch swapping component time of 4000ms
- Other constraints on swapping:
 - Pending I/O can't swap out as I/O would occur to wrong process.
 - Or always transfer I/O to kernel space, then to I/O device
 - Known as double buffering \Rightarrow more overhead
- Standard swapping not being used in modern OSes
 - Swap only when free memory extremely low.



Context Switch Time and Swapping

- Standard swapping not being used in modern OSes
 - Swap only when free memory extremely low.

PID	USER	PRI	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR	S	CPU%	MEM%	TIME+	Command
62442	nobody	20	0	149M	29568	3380	S	0.7	3.0	19h45:08	/opt/shadowsock
294718	root	20	0	1217M	26 968	14 872	S	0.0	2.7	1:35.77	/usr/lib/snapd/
548	root	RT	0	273M	18000	8208	S	0.0	1.8	53:09.84	/sbin/multipath
339	root	19	-1	60340	14 824	14228	S	0.0	1.5	58:22.91	/lib/systemd/sy
1	root	20	0	165M	11 528	7416	S	0.0	1.2	11:04.96	/sbin/init
743	root	20	0	384M	9296	7940	S	0.0	0.9	0:47.24	/usr/lib/udisks
319021	root	20	0	13 676	9004	7544	S	0.0	0.9	0:00.01	sshd: ubuntu [p
297724	ubuntu	20	0	22500	8964	7308	S	0.0	0.9	9:00.86	mosh-client -#
310259	root	20	0	13 676	8928	7484	S	0.0	0.9	0:00.01	sshd: ubuntu [p
318909	root	0	-20	9128	8532	4320	S	0.0	0.9	0:00.70	/usr/bin/atop -
942	ubuntu	20	0	19 064	7664	6792	S	0.0	0.8	0:00.17	/lib/systemd/sy
640	systemd-r	20	0	24680	7248	7036	S	0.0	0.7	1:12.19	/lib/systemd/sy
712	root	20	0	232M	7188	5584	S	0.0	0.7	32:27.45	/usr/lib/accoun
1068	ubuntu	20	0	13 588	7108	2688	S	0.0	0.7	2h23:39	tmux
784	root	20	0	307M	6832	6304	S	0.0	0.7	0:00.68	/usr/sbin/Modem
741	root	20	0	17 648	6548	5996	S	0.0	0.7	1:11.51	/lib/systemd/sy
734	root	20	0	29 872	6320	<mark>4</mark> 984	S	0.0	0.6	0:00.09	/usr/bin/python
F1Help	F2 <mark>Setup</mark> F3	3 <mark>Sea</mark> :	rchF4	4Filte	rF5 <mark>Tre</mark>	F6 <mark>S</mark> c	ort	tByF7N	Nice -	-F8 <mark>Nice +</mark> F	F9 <mark>Kill F10Quit</mark>

Memory Allocation

- Although the following simple (basic) memory management techniques are no longer used in modern OSes, they lay the ground for a proper discussion of virtual memory:
 - Contiguous Memory Allocation
 - Fixed (Static) Partitioning (固定分区)
 - Variable (Dynamic) Partitioning (可变分区)
 - Simple **Segmentation** (简单**分段**)
 - Simple **Paging** (简单**分页**)



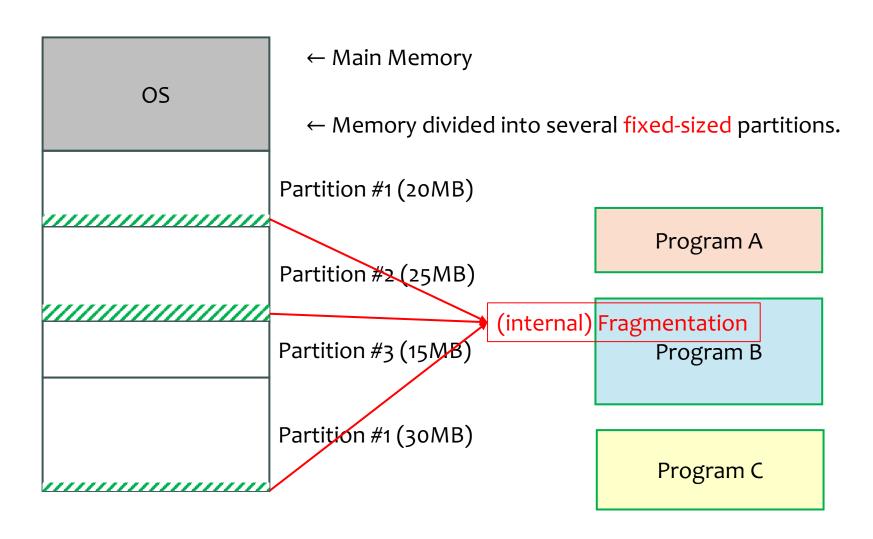
Fixed-sized Partitions

- One of the simplest methods for allocating memory.
- Divide memory into several fixed-sized partitions
 - The size of the fixed-sized partitions can be equal, or unequal
- Each partition may contain exactly one process.
- When a partition is free, a process is selected from the input queue and is loaded into the free partition.
- When the process terminates, the partition becomes available for another process.

■ Fixed-sized Partitions

0.5	← Main Memory							
OS	← Memory divided into several fixed-sized partitions							
	Partition #1 (20MB)							
	Partition #2 (25 MR)	Program A						
	Partition #2 (25MB)							
	Partition #3 (15MB)	Program B						
	Doubition #4 (DOMD)							
	Partition #1 (30MB)	Program C						

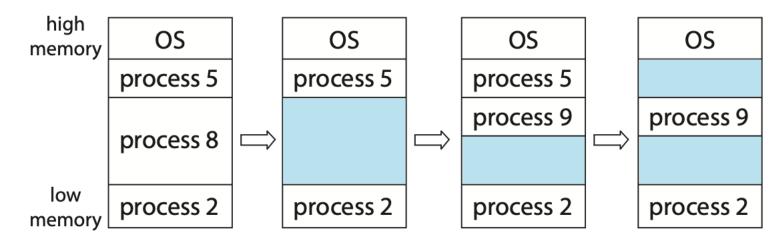
■ Fixed-sized Partitions





Variable Partitions

- Variable-partition sizes for efficiency (sized to the process's needs)
 - reduce internal fragmentation
- Hole: block of available memory, also called free partitions.
 - holes of various sizes are scattered throughout memory
- When a process arrives, it is allocated memory from a hole large enough to acommodate it.
- When a process exits, its partition is freed
 - adjacent free partitions combined
- The OS maintains info about: 1) allocated partitions; 2) free partitions



OS

Process 1

OS

Process 1

Process 2

OS

Process 1

Process 2

Process 3

OS

Process 1

Process 2

Process 3

Free

Process 4

OS

Process 1

Process 2

Process 3

Process 4

OS

Process 1

Process 2

Process 3

Free

Process 4

OS Free Process 2 Process 3 Process 4 Free

OS

Free

Process 2

Free

Process 4

OS

Free

Process 2

Free

Process 4

Free

Process 5

OS

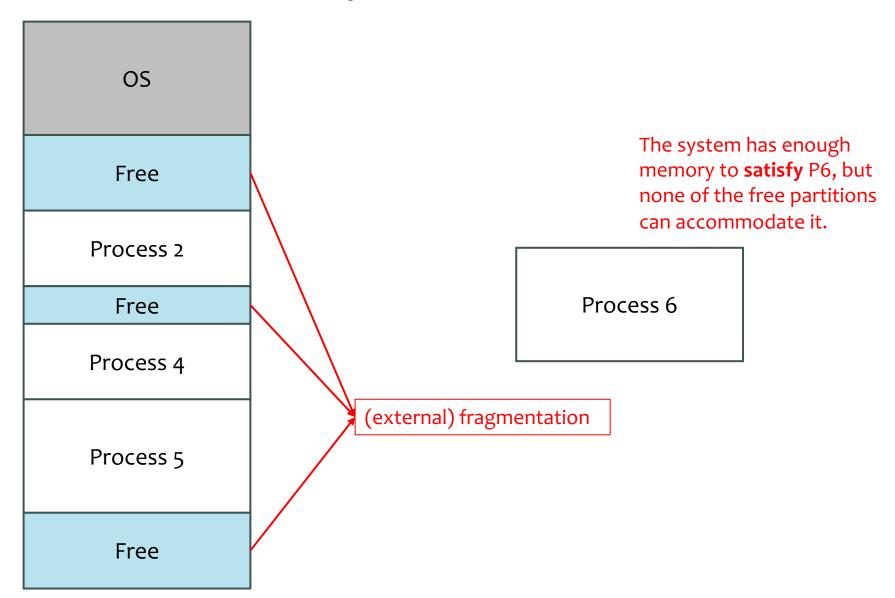
Free

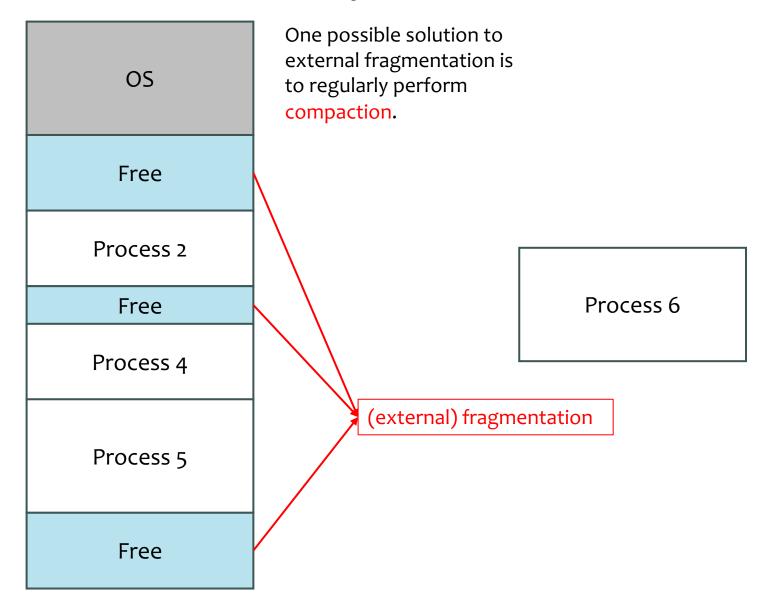
Process 2

Free

Process 4

Process 5





OS

One possible solution to external fragmentation is to regularly perform compaction.

OS

Free

Process 2

Free

Process 4

Process 5

OS Free Process 2 Free Process 4 Process 5 Free

One possible solution to external fragmentation is to regularly perform compaction.

Compaction

OS

Process 2

Process 4

Process 5

One possible solution to external fragmentation is OS OS to regularly perform compaction. Free Process 2 Process 2 Process 4 Compaction Free Process 5 Process 4 Process 6 Process 5 Free Free



Contiguous Memory Allocation

- **Fixed** Partitions
 - Memory usage is inefficient.
 - Any program, no matter how small, occupies an entire partition
 - leads to serious internal fragmentation.

Variable Partitions

- Partitions are of variable length
- Number of partitions are variable
- Each program is allocated exactly as much memory as requested
- Eventually holes (free partitions) are formed.
 - leads to external fragmentation.
 - Compaction can be used to combine different (small) holes into one big trunk of free partition.
 - However, compaction is **not** always possible.
 - It is also very expensive, since memory operations consume many CPU cycles.

Dynamic Storage-Allocation Problem

- How to satisfy a request of size n from a list of holes (free partitions)?
 - First-fit: Allocate the first hole that is big enough
 - Best-fit: Allocate the smallest hole that is big enough
 - must search entire list of holes, unless ordered by size
 - Worst-fit: Allocate the largest hole
 - must also search entire list
 - Produces the largest leftover hole
- Simulations have shown that both first-fit and best-fit are better than worst-fit in terms of speed and storage utilization.

Fragmentation

- External Fragmentation: total memory space exists to satisfy a request, but it is not contiguous
- Internal Fragmentation: allocated memory may be slightly larger than requested memory; the size difference is memory internal to a partition, but not being used.
- First-fit analysis reveals that given N blocks allocated, 0.5N blocks might be lost to fragmentation
 - 1/3 may be unusable \Rightarrow 50-percent rule.



Thank you!